Daily Report

East Europe

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Unrest Continues in Durres, Shengjin Port Cities

Roads Leading to Ports Controlled by Army

AU0803194791 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Sailing on hijacked ships without suitable crews, more than 15,000 Albanians have set off for Italy as of noon today, while only 1,300 people have been put up in a camp in Italy.

Roads leading to Albanian ports are controlled by the Army, and soldiers have been ordered to prevent a further exodus of Albanian citizens at any cost.

This step has been welcomed by the Italian side, which has found itself in great trouble, not knowing how to accommodate such a large number of refugees.

Durres Reported 'Generally Quiet' 8 Mar

AU0803194991 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Statement by the Council of Ministers' Press and Information Directorate issued in Tirana on 8 March]

[Text] At the initiative of the Council of Ministers, a government group was sent to Durres today to help the enforcement of the Council of Ministers' recent decree. This group is headed by Aleks Luarasi, secretary general of the Council of Ministers.

According to information he gave to the Press and Information Directorate, measures are being taken to ensure that the forces [words indistinct] in the port of Durres. Health Ministry experts have also arrived in Durres to take measures to prevent the spread of various diseases. The sanitary conditions (?on the Partizan ship) [words indistinct].

The situation is generally quiet in the city of Durres, but there are gatherings of the people on the city streets, (?near the shipyard), at the railroad station, etc. Groups of citizens, together with the local authorities, are taking steps to ensure as normal as possible a supply of food, etc. [words indistinct]

2,000 Occupy Boats in Shengjin

AU0803200591 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Tome Cercaj telephone report on 8 March; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] The town of Shengjin presents an unusual appearance again today. About 2,000 people are waiting in the port on boats that cannot depart because of their technical condition. The vessels are the fishing boats [five names indistinct]. Some of these have persisted in efforts to embark for Italy but suffer from various defects. The fishing boats [three names indistinct] have been in danger of sinking. Some of the people [words indistinct] (?to their homes in Shkoder, Lac, and Kruje.) About 2,000 other people are still waiting to depart for Italy. Despite the continued efforts of the state services and the police forces—who have placed transportation at their disposal—to urge them to return home, they will not agree to return. Those with whom meetings and talks have been held expressed their determination to cross to Italy, even though they have been informed about the Council of Ministers' communiqie. The roads leading to Shengjin have been blocked today, and the forces for the maintenance of order remain on duty.

People 'Determined in Their Stand'

AU0903203591 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Tome Cercaj telephone report on 9 March; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Today, 9 March 1991, is the fourth day in which the town of Shengjin has been the focus of our attention. New impressions have been acquired today, up to the time of sending you this telephone report. The roads of the town of Shengjin and the seaport are calm. The inhabitants of this coastal town (?welcome) this calm. There is calm on the streets, in enterprises, in the stores, and in family circles. Everywhere, however, one feels these people's inner distress at seeing their sons and daughters, brothers and sisters leaving by sea, bidding the homeland farewell. The scenes shown on television screens have undoubtedly been chilling, but distress is greatest in those families where made-up beds remain empty. This hemorrhage is truly painful. There are gaps in factory shifts and classrooms. As I said before, at first sight all is calm; however, there is still the sight of about 2,000 people who are still waiting after three days to flee to Italy. They are determined in their stand. They repeatedly shout the slogan: Freedom, democracy, and raise their fingers in the form of a V. To cope with the night cold and the sea winds yesterday evening, they took the fishing nets from an anchored defective boat and wrapped themselves in them. They also burned planks that they took from the nearby [word indistinct]. Damage has also been caused to the beach hotels and chalets. The glass of many windows in the communal enterprises has been broken, premises have been broken into, and desks, chairs, and tables have been stolen. For some days, the police station has prevented further gatherings on the pier and throughout the town of Shengjin. As we were told by District Traffic Chairman Agim Kadriu, road traffic toward the town was placed under control after the issue of the Council of Ministers' communique. As we learned today, however, this situation is causing difficulties to the movements of the residents of the town of Shengjin, who are often forced to walk to Lezhe.

Serious Clashes Reported in Durres; Many Injured

LD0903185291 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1657 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Ohrid, 9 Ma- (TANJUG)—Albanian radio this afternoon carried a government statement that the Albanian port of Durres, from which about 20,000 Albanian refugees have left for Italy in seized boats, was liberated today by the joint and "energetic action by the Army and the police."

Several thousand Albanians were in the port or on the ship "Partizani" during the actions. The radio reported that there were serious clashes between the Army and the police. It added that there are many injured, but the number is not specified. The radio said that all the refugees are under the control of the military authorities.

The ships at anchor in the harbor are still waiting to be unloaded. The ships contain food products valued at $9 million.

Durres Under 'Complete Control' of Defense Forces

AU0903204591 Tirana ATA in English 1908 GMT 9 Mar 91

["Announcement of the Press and Information Department of the Council of Ministers"—ATA headline]

[Text] Tirana, March 9 (ATA)—According to reports, the situation in Durres is as follows: After the energetic interference of the forces of order and cooperation with those of people's defence, the territory of the sea port is completely empty. Besides this, the people who were aboard the "Partizani" ship and who did not agree to leave the ship voluntarily were taken away by force. In the mean time ,there was a clash as a result of which there were persons wounded.

Now the territory of the seaport is under the complete control of the forces of defence, which guarantee the regime dictated on the seaport as a military zone. Loading and unloading of ships has not yet started, but work is going on in the storehouses to transport various commodities. The seaport department informs that the Albanian and foreign ships seized by force on the part of the refugees had mainly food articles to the tune of about 9 million dollars.

The situation in the city is relatively quiet. There are some people gathered in the suburbs of the city and near the railway station, mainly people wanting to turn back in the cities they have come from.

The Press and Information Department has reports on false news circulating that allegedly the border point of Kapshtica will open on March 10 and 11 and the foreign embassies in Tirana will also "open" on March 10. We call on the nationals that whenever such rumors are spread situations and problems which nobody wants are created. For this reason, nobody should not believe such false information. [sentence as received] The citizens must be cool- headed and judge realistically so that to avoid further aggravation of the situation.

'Normalization' Reported 10 Mar

AU1003194291 Tirana ATA in English 1858 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Tirana, March 10 (ATA)—Durres city had a calm day today. The proclamation of the port a military zone influenced in the normalization of the situation and the beginning of load-unload processes of the ships and rail wagons. This has enabled a normal work for the days to come. Hence, although the port resumed its activity since yesterday evading the grain from the stores to the destination by vehicles and railway, today the first ships were anchored in the port. The first to be anchored was the ship "Alba" which has a cargo of 3000 tons of sugar. Later it was followed by another foreign ship "Fathom" with a cargo of 18,000 tons of wheat. Meanwhile preparations are being made to manage the loading- unloading volumes of the other ships to come. Work is coordinated with the railway and the park of vehicles, aiming at evading the goods as soon as possible, especially the foodstuff ones. Besides the ships "Partizani," "Teuta," and "Skenderbeu," tomorrow other foreign ships such as "Lina," "Polina," "Agnion," "Prvi February," etc., will be anchored in the port. They will be unloaded and loaded with various necessary goods for the market supply and the indispensable needs of import-export. Henceforth, the Durres seaport, as a neuralgic knot for the entire economy resumed its activity, following five days of work suspension, as a result of the events already known through the TV and press chronicles. The working people of the port will work hard to load and unload the ships as soon as possible so as to gain the lost time.

The situation is normal in the Shengjin port too, after the intervention of the forces of order.

Government Halts Exodus; 'Fresh Tension' Reported

LD1003160991 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1415 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Ohrid, Yugoslavia, March 10 (TANJUG)—The government in Tirana today announced that it has complied with the request of the Italian Govermnent to stop the exodus of Albanians.

Today's broadcast by Radio Tirana, as monitored in the Yugoslav border town of Ohrid, confirmed that an energetic action by the Army and police completely cleared the port of Durres last night and that there were no more Albanians who want to leave for Italy in that city.

The Partizani, a ship which refugees had already boarded was seized by force last night. About ten people on both sides were injured in the severe clash.

Radio Tirana reports that security forces today control the port, but that refugees are rallying in groups at the outskirts of the city.

Both sides are relieved that Albanian, but also Italian ports have been placed under control. Italy last night gave to Albania previously approved aid of 10 billion lire, and it has indicated that aid in food and medicines would also urgently be sent.

Radio Tirana meanwhile reports that there is fresh tension in the country because of misinformation that foreign embassies will be open today to admit asylum-seekers, and that one border crossing will also be open today and tomorrow.

The Albanian authorities have appealed to the people to stay calm and have made it clear to university students in Tirana who are again urging mass rallies, that this would be prevented at all costs.

Vrake Villagers Gather at SFRY Border

AU1003213591 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 2100 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] The Interior Ministry's spokesman reports that, according to information from the border guards, about 1,000 villages from the village of Vrake in Shkoder District gathered near the Han i Hotit border crossing point, demanding to go to Yugoslavia. The border guards continually called on them to return home and to obtain regular passports; however, they stated that they were leaving of their own accord [words indistinct] to live in Montenegro forever, and remained waiting for a reply from the Yugoslav side stating that they would be accepted. The border forces again appealed to them, trying to persuade them not to leave the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, but they stood firm in their demands. Under these circumstances, the border forces acted according to the regulations governing the departure of citizens from the country [words indistinct].

Government Searches for Solution to Problem

Luarasi on Ways To 'Normalize' Durres

AU0903181891 Tirana ATA in English 1055 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Report on interview with Aleks Luarasi, secretary general of the Council of Ministers: "Worry of the Whole Country"]

[Text] Tirana, March 9 (ATA)—Under the above title the newspaper "ZERI I POPULLIT" carries an interview of the Secretary General of the Council of Ministers Aleks Luarasi which says among other things:

The public opinion has been continuously informed of the measures the Council of Ministers is adopting to normalize the situation. Attention is concentrated especially on the sea port of Durres. A government commission made up of ministers and deputy ministers as well as specialists of various ministries has been created to normalize the situation. The aim is that the ships come back and be unloaded. We must underline that a part of them carry food articles so necessary at present. Besides other ships which carry food articles and raw material for the economy should be guaranteed. Consequently, as it has been reported, the port of Durres is declared a military zone.

Another objective of our work is to disperse the people who stay near the port.

The latest events in the ports of Durres, Vlore and Shengjin or the gatherings of people in front of foreign embassies, he said among others things, are a flagrant violation of the laws of our state on national security, state property, inviolability of the embassies, etc.

Anybody who has followed the events realises that the forces of order could not stop them first of all due to their huge proportions and proceeding from the idea of avoiding bloodshed.

In the mean time our embassy in Rome is instructed to go immediately to the Italian ports where the refugees are in order to solve together with the Italian authorities the problems for their treatment and to facilitate the grave living conditions. Likewise, a delegation of the executive committee of Durres District People's Council, made up of representatives of the maritime fleet, sea port will leave for Puglia to take care of the ships and their crews.

Foreign Minister Phones Perez de Cuellar

LD1003111491 Tirana ATA in English 1031 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Tirana, March 10 (ATA)—Over the last 2 days, the Albanian Foreign Minister Muhamet Kapllani has had direct telephone calls with the UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, with the Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis, as well as with the chairman of the 45th session of the UN General Assembly Guido de Marco. In these talks they had a useful and constructive exchange of opinions on the question of departure of thousands of Albanian nationals for Italy, the commitment of the Italian Government, United Nations, etc., to face with this problem, which, besides others, has a great humanitarian character and has to do with the relations between the two neighbouring countries of the Adriatic, Albania and Italy, in which Europe and the international community are also interested.

PRSh Issues Appeal to Italian Leaders

AU0903212591 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] A telegram sent today by the Managing Commission of the Albanian Republican Party [PRSh] to Italian President Francesco Cossiga; Italian Senate President Giovanni Spadolini; and Giulio Andreotti, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Italian Republic, states:

The events surrounding the Albanian emigrants have caused a deep shock to the entire Albanian nation at home and abroad. Thousands of families are living in anxiety for their sons' lives. The PRSh begs you to reconsider your attitude to them. The noble Italian people are respected throughout the world for their humanism and have known this humanism for 500 years. Our ties are ancient. The Italian people's kindness was evident immediately after the death of Skenderbeg, when Italy become a refuge for thousands of Albanian emigrants who fled to your shores and who live there still today as worthy citizens. As neighboring peoples, we have always loved, respected, and helped each other. This is also evident in modern history. When tens of thousands of Italian soldiers were stranded on Albanian soil in September 1943, our people fed them, sharing their morsels of bread. They sheltered them in their little cottages, regardless of the laws, receiving them as the immigrants they were. This continued for three years under the difficult conditions of war and deep poverty. The more difficult the conditions, however, the more closely the Albanian and Italian peoples became tied. They survived.

Our emigrants in these days have caused difficulties for the Italian people; however, joint efforts can always solve difficulties. His excellency Flaminio Piccoli assessed our situation with deep wisdom, and called Albania Italy's small sister. This attitude was appreciated in Albania, therefore, let the Italian Government treat our unfortunate sons as nephews in need. Do not leave them without shelter and food. Whatever Italy's problems today, it is the fifth-largest industrial state in the world.

In recent days, our government has done its utmost to stem this painful hemorrhage from the country; however, the support of the Italian Government is indispensable. We ask you to send back the children unaccompanied by their parents and boys and girls under the age of 16. Send them back in a civilized way, as is typical of the Italian people. As for others, let them be maintained until an agreement is reached between the two governments. The use of force and the enforcement of the law would not be a suitable way of dealing with people in despair. Your excellencies, you yourselves know that there are key moments in history that have a deep influence on relations between peoples. The PRSh sets great store by relations with Italy. Your government must help Albania in these difficult days, laying the foundations for comprehensive cooperation in the future. Tens of thousands of families, and all our people, are waiting to see what Italy will do with their sons. They are waiting for your powerful support.

Managing Commission of the PRSh.

Italy's Martelli To Pay Visit

LD1003102891 Tirana ATA in English 0919 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Tirana, March 10 (ATA)—On March 9, the chairman of the Council of Ministers of the PSR [People's Socialist Republic] of Albania, Fatos Nano, sent a letter to the president of the Council of Ministers of the Italian republic, Giulio Andreotti, in which after voicing the deep concern for the exodus and the difficult situation of Albanian refugees in Italy, he emphasizes the necessity of cooperation between the two countries and of Italy's allsided support for our country to cope with the grave economic situation of Albania.

In reply to the letter of the Prime Minister Fatos Nano, the Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti decided to send to Albania on March 11, 1991 the vice-dpremier of the Council of Ministers of the Italian leadership on the aforesaid matters.

Likewise, the chairman of the Council of Ministrs of the PSR of Albania has addressed a letter dealing with these problems ot the president of the European Community Commission, Jacques Delors, which underscores that the difficulties created by the exodus of the refugees will be overcome easier and faster if the contribution of the European Community, of which neighboring Italy is a member, will not be lacking for this end.

PRSh, PDSh, PPSh on Election Campaign

AU0903185491 Tirana ATA in English 1047 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Tirana, March 9 (ATA)—Recently the Republican Party [PRSh] organized a meeting with representatives of intelligentsia and other working people of the capital to discuss on the grave situation created in the country and the election campaign. The member of the initiating commission for the creation of the Republicn Party Hysen Cobani forwarded the program of this party, the objectives for the election campaign and said that the Republican Party is a follower of the ideas of our democrats Fan Noli, Avni Rustemi, Luigj Gurakuqi, and Bajram Curri. It is not based on any doctrine but on the Albanian and the love for Albania. One of its objectives in the economic plane is the private character of industry, agriculture and the development of the village, creation of better conditions for women,youth, etc. Emigration, he underlined, should be organized by the state and relations should be established quickly with the Albanian diaspora of America for the country's recovery. Regarding the recent events, he said, it is high time to show ourselves real patriots.

The branch of the Democratic Party [PDSh] for the town of Kucove organized a meeting these days on the program and objectives of this party for the election campaign. The chairman of the steering committee of the Democratic Party, Dr. Sali Berisha spoke among others of the democratic traditions of the inhabitants of this region, who were on the forefront of the democratic and pluralistic processes of our country. After dwelling on the expansion of the Democratic Party in the entire country he underlined the active role intelligentsia should play in the process of democratization and underlined that the Democratic Party is for the promotion of democracy disassociating from violence and vandalism. We, he said, adhere to the principle that we are opposite but

brothers at the same time. Dwelling on the recent events he underlined the indispensability of emigration, which should be organized by the state.

An activists' meeting was organized in the city of Korce for the analysis of the election program of the PLA [Albanian Workers' Party—PPSh] in the economic and social field. The secretary of the CC [Central Committee] of PLA Prof. Abdyl Backa, speaking on this program pointed out that the party has considered the new developments in the economic and social fields, the lessons the PLA has drawn from these developments and the demands deriving from the actual situation and for the contemporary development of our society. He underlined the need of economic stability through work, through a gradual application of the economic reforms. Dwelling on the economic program the meeting tackled with the economic reforms, its component parts, through a gradual transition to the market economy. He concentrated on some social aspects of the program.

Students Assembly Meeting Declared Illegal

AU0903202391 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] The procurator general's spokesman reports: A call was issued by the Provisional Committee for Starting College Classes on the premises of Tirana University today, 9 March 1991, regarding the organization of a meeting of the Students' Assembly on Democracy Square. The organization and holding of this meeting in a public place such as Democracy Square is illegal because the demands of the Decree on Meetings, Assemblies, and Manifestations of Citizens in Public Places, dated 31 July 1990, have not been met. If such an activity takes place, the forces for the maintenance of order have received instructions to act in the way defined in the aforementioned decree, and the organizers will bear legal responsibility.

Delays in Judicial Actions, Media Deplored

AU1003204291 Tirana ZERI I POPULLIT in Albanian 2 Mar 91 p 1

[Musa Ulqini article: "The Dangers of Being Taken Aback"]

[Text] The swift and dramatic developments of recent times, so unexpected and fraught with dangers for social peace and the country's future, have taken many people aback, not only communists, managers, civil servants, intellectuals, and personnel of the forces of order, but even certain state services. The evil is that such a phenomenon is even evident in such services as the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Investigator General's Office, and the Procurator General's Office, with consequences for the protection of the rule of law. In situations like those through which we are now passing, any prevarication, delay, or failure to appreciate the seriousness of events, especially on the part of the services for the maintenance of order and the justice services, instantly creates serious problems. Recent events show that the Presidential Council's warning about the work of these services, issued at its most recent meeting, was fully justified. We must stop cowering as soon as possible. This is particularly true for services with the immediate task of defending the judicial order.

Could some of the events of recent days have been prevented? Many people answer this question, now being asked everywhere, in the affirmative, especially because some of these events were predicted, like in Gabriel Garcia Marquez's novel, "Chronicle of a Death Foretold." In some cases, those who were worst informed about the events taking place or expected to take place were precisely those people who should be the best informed and who should prevent violations of the judicial order. For instance, there are people who know who tossed the rope to bring down Enver Hoxha's statue at the Tirana Tractor Combine. It is only the forces of order and the justice services who still do not know who the organizers of this vandal act were. The work of removing books from the Flora bookstore onto the street outside continued for hours on end. Nevertheless, none of the forces of order intervened to stop this disgraceful cultural atrocity. Exchanges of fire between the forces of order and armed terrorists in front of the Enver Hoxha United Officers' School in Tirana on 22 February continued for many hours. Nevertheless, not one of the terrorists was detained at the proper time.

The events of recent days show that swift and accurate information has a highly important role to play in preventing excesses, breaches of order and the public peace, and unpleasant events. Any delay or vagueness in reporting immediately gives rise to monstrous rumors, so even the most ordinary and insignificant events can become highly politicized, with bitter consequences. In recent times, we have all witnessed radical changes in the information provided by the spokesmen of state services, especially the justice services, in the national media. Nevertheless, there is clumsiness and delay in the transmission of information. This is true even in cases of flagrant violations of the law. Specifically, Albanian Television informed the public in its 2000 news broadcast on 19 February of a call issued to the working people of the capital by the "Initiating Commission of the Independent Trade Unions." The call appealed to working people of the capital to organize a general strike on the following day—i.e. 20 February—in support of the students' hunger strike. No one at the Justice Ministry or the Trade Unions General Council thought of announcing on the evening's final news broadcast that this trade union is illegal. Other media also later published and broadcast another call from this phantom organization, this time not calling for a strike, but for work, self-restraint, etc.! It was only a few days later that the public was told the truth.

We have all followed on the radio and television the interviews with Blendi Gonxhe, leader of the Tirana University student movement for the change of the institution's name. Strangely, no one thought of asking

him what he was doing leading the university students, when he is a student of another college, in fact the Art College, especially because the question of a referendum "only within the university" was raised. Was it to show that this movement was totally independent and subject to no manipulation of any kind? An anonymous report appeared in RILINDJA DEMOKRATIKE on 27 February, under the headline "Why Was Artan Lenja Murdered?" This event was genuinely painful, but, for the sake of the truth, it must be said that the circumstances and motives behind this murder were different from those described in RILINDJA DEMOKRATIKE. The investigator of the case and the Tirana District chief investigator admit this. Would the misunderstanding and extreme politicization of this case not have been avoided if the investigator had provided an accurate statement for the national media? The public was not informed in time about the rumors in circulation alleging that people could travel abroad on ferries arriving at Durres, and what happened then happened. The second rumor about escape abroad on ferries from Durres suffered total "defeat," because the public were informed in time, accurately, and with evidence. This kind of information is highly important, because people are unfortunately ready to believe the most absurd things, taking them for the literal truth. It is enough to recall how many thousands of copies of a "lucky" letter were duplicated in Tirana in recent days to realize in what kind of mental state people find themselves these days. Today, any delay in information immediately creates serious problems, even political problems.

The situation through which we are passing calls on us to be vigilant as never before, so we may deepen democracy without violence or painful events of any kind. The forces of order and the justice services must be particularly vigilant, so they may, with cool heads and sound judgment, prevent on time any act by destructive forces to violate the judicial order and public peace.

International Helsinki Federation Group Arrives

AU0803143291 Tirana ATA in English 0918 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Tirana, March 8 (ATA)—A delegation of the Helsinki International Federation, headed by its chairman, Bjorn Elmquist, arrives in our country on March 7. Members of the delegation are also the secretary general of the Federation, Gerald Nagler; the legal administrator of the Department of Human Rights of the European Council, Andrew Drzemozewski; as well as representatives of the Helsinki National Committees from Sweden, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, the U.S.A., and Yugoslavia.

During the visit, they will meet with senior personalities of the country, as well as of the political parties and social organisations.

Received by President Alia

AU0803203091 Tirana ATA in English 1833 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Tirana, March 8 (ATA)—Today, the chairman of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, Comrade Ramiz Alia, received the delegation of the International Helsinki Federation. He wished welcome to the guests and expressed satisfaction on meeting with members of this delegation, who have come to Albania for the first time.

The participants in the meeting took interest in the actual situation in Albania. On this occasion, Comrade Ramiz Alia pointed out among others that the current situation should be closely linked with the road traversed by our country during these 45 years, with the profound backwardness it inherited from the past. In the conditions of this backwardness, Comrade Ramiz Alia emphasized, the main concern of the Albanian Government was necessarily the elevation of the material and cultural level of the people, the strengthening of their health. Time has proved the fruitfulness of this priority. If in 1945, 80 percent of the population was illiterate, now secondary education is compulsory for all. If in 1945, the average life expectancy was under 40 years of age, now it has reached 71 to 72 years. Hence, during these decades, the Albanian state fulfilled the fundamental rights of the people, their right to live better, to acquire education, to gain more culture. We started the struggle for the human rights from these.

In continuation, speaking of the process of democratization of the life Albania is undergoing now, Comrade Ramiz Alia said that this is a logical process emerging from the incessant development of our society, which will in the future too will progress further through qualitative transformations, in agriculture and industry, in the field of science and legislation, in the social and political life. In the center of the program of our current development stands the task to work for the transition from a centralized economy into a free market economy, Comrade Ramiz Alia said in continuation. He explained to the members of the delegation that in Albania's conditions, this transition should be gradual and mature, because any materially unjustified acceleration would be of grave economic and social consequences.

Speaking of human rights in Albania, Comrade Ramiz Alia said among others that in the current stage all economic, material and cultural premises have been created to guarantee them to a higher degree, aiming at the known international standards.

I agree with you that the problem of human rights is complex, the head of the delegation, Bjorn Elmquist said. We should not consider only those which are acknowledged as universal rights of the individual, but also the economic and social freedoms and equalities. It is more important to have something to eat than to enjoy the right to criticize someone above who adopts decisions. Likewise I fully agree with your analysis on

Albania's difficulties to shift to the market economy and the maturity to be shown, as you said, concerning this stage.

Comrade Ramiz Alia spoke also of the radical changes carried out to the Albanian legislation, of the extremely democratic content of the draft-constitution, etc. He underlined that these documents are in accordance with the key international charters as regards to the defense of human rights.

Further on, speaking of the road to realize political pluralism in Albania, he said that democracy demands respect and tolerance, culture and above all a dynamic development of the economic and social relations. We are working in order that this pluralism lead to the strengthening of national unity. Such his been the many centuries-long aspiration of our people.

Further on, Comrade Ramiz Alia responded to the interest of the delegation members regarding the illegal fleeing of the citizens to Italy. He said that this phenomenon is related to the actual economic difficulties Albania is undergoing, but also to a harmful psychosis among some people, as if now with the establishment of the multiparty system Europe will keep us without working. On the other side, various internal and external forces are trying to exploit the economic hardships for destabilizing aims, to discredit our state. Now we need to work, augment production so as to be able to import through rising export. We want to implant the belief in all the people that Europe will help us progress, but first of all we ourselves should get down to work.

Likewise the members of the delegation were interested in the release of the political prisoners. Comrade Ramiz Alia told them that reexamining the penal legislation since 8 months ago, the Presidium of the People's Assembly has issued decrees in every meeting to pardon sentences of the political prisoners. The Presidium will soon examine requests for the pardon of those political prisoners that remain. Comrade Ramiz Alia also responded to the interest the delegation members had shown regarding the work of the Forum for the Defense of Human Rights recently created in Albania. The reception passed in a friendly atmosphere of understanding.

Meets Secretary General Luarasi

AU0803205191 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Aleks Luarasi, secretary general of the Council of Ministers received the delegation of the International Helsinki Federation at the prime minister's office this morning.

At the meeting, they exchanged views concerning the situation and prospects of human rights in our country. Aleks Luarasi welcomed the first visit to Albania of a delegation from this Federation, expressing the hope that cooperation with this body will be strengthened in the future. He emphasized that, from the legal and practical point of view, the state of human rights in our country has improved perceptibly following changes to the legislation, such as the creation of the Ministry of Justice, the institution of attorneys, the decrees allowing a multiparty political system, strikes, various public assemblies, citizens' free travel within and outside the country, religious services, and making a series of changes in the penal code. He also informed the members of the delegation about the main principles of the draft constitution, which are based on international documents on fundamental human freedoms and rights, such as the UN and CSCE Charters, etc. The secretary general of the Council of Ministers said that there is a lot be done to realistically guarantee the extension of human rights to reach European and international standards.

The members of the International Helsinki Federation asked questions on the these issues, acquainting themselves more fully with the Albanian state's work to secure a broader guarantee of human rights. They were interested in problems concerning the legal system, the right to travel abroad, and the right to exercise religious belief.

The delegation's leader, Bjorn Elmquist, expressed the desire of this Federation to make its contribution by sending experts to our country.

The delegation of the International Helsinki Federation was also received at separate meetings today by Justice Minister Dashamir Shkore and Interior Minister Gramoz Rucaj.

Received by Election Commission Head

AU0903201891 Tirana ATA in English 1858 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Tirana, March 9 (ATA)—The chairman of the Election Central Commission for deputies to the People's Assembly, Prof. Rexhep Mejdani, received at the seat of the Presidium of the People's Assembly the delegation of the International Helsinki Federation, headed by Bjorn Elmquist on March 9 before noon.

At first, Prof. Rexhep Mejdani expressed to the delegation members the feelings of respect for their noble work in defence of human rights and the perceptible role this federation has played also in acquainting the European opinion with the violation of human rights in Kosovo. Then he spoke on the first pluralist elections of March 31 in our country, on the new election law of the People's Assembly, as well as on the preparatory work of the election central commission and the election commissions of the polling precincts and booths, on the proposal, discussion and presentation of the candidates etc. Speaking of the human rights, he said that at the present stage all the conditions are created so that they be completely guaranteed, with the aim of reaching the known international standards. He also spoke of the engagement of the political parties and of the other subjects in the electoral campaign.

Prof. Rexhep Mejdani responded to the interest of the delegation members, regarding the election campaign, the voters'enrollement, the guarantee of the electors' rights and their realization, the representation of the electoral subjects in these elections, and the legal demands for propaganda during the campaign etc.

The head of the delegation Bjorn Elmquist thanked for the reception, the explanations and said among others that various election systems are applied in the modern democracies today. There are developed countries, as England, which applies the majority system. Both systems are modern and there is no meaning for me to criticize.

The participation of the political parties in the commissions of election, he pointed out, makes possible the mutual control, which creates conditions for really free and equal voting. The members of the delegation took also interest in the public opinion polls during the election campaign, the composition of election commissions, etc., of which the necessary explanations were made.

In reply, Prof. Rexhep Mejdani underlined also that despite the pluralistic composition of the election commissions, they are state ones and their members should be penally responsible for any violation of the electoral law. He spoke also of the way electors will be enrolled, the character and guarantee of the secrecy of voting, the invitation of the Presidium of the People's Assembly to delegations of observers, as well as foreign reporters to come to Albania, the state support with material and monetary funds for the electoral subjects for the election campaign, etc. He said also that according to the law, the observers, representatives of electoral subjects and of independent candidates, as well as of the press organs, radio television and the news agency be allowed during the voting process.

The reception passed in a warm atmosphere.

National Assembly Adopts Decision on Ethnic Issue

Prime Minister Popov Makes Statement

AU0903213091 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1800 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Statement by Prime Minister Dimitur Popov; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Dear fellow countrymen: The subject of this statement, made on Bulgarian television and radio, is the decision adopted yesterday by the Grand National Assembly. As you already know, it is connected with the optional study of the Turkish language in the country's schools.

In many towns and villages in Bulgaria, disturbances have arisen, spontaneously or otherwise. Acute tension has developed between ethnic groups of Bulgarian and Turkish origin in the population. Schools have been picketed, teachers have come out on strike or taken unpaid leave, and parents have prevented their children from going to school. The basic, normal educational process has been interrupted. Rallies and meetings are being held declaring ultimatums and making appeals; in some places, resignations are being demanded. Small children are holding hunger strikes.

The representatives of the Ministry of Education and the political forces, and the appeals of the government and the political forces and formations, which have been made several times, have failed to achieve the expected effect. The education process has been halted or disturbed.

At the root of these disturbances lies the issue of learning one's mother or native language, which is a sacred right, a right of man that he has the desire and opportunity to exercise.

The Grand National Assembly adopted a decision according to which it ordered the Ministry of Education and the government to make preparations that will make it possible to begin the optional study of Turkish in Bulgarian schools at the start of the next academic year—that is, from autumn this year. It instructed the government and the Ministry of Education to carry out these preparations in such a way that this study should really begin at the start of the academic year.

There is no political force in Bulgaria that does not recognize this sacred right should be applied and that the possibility should be created to exercise this right. Differences exist regarding the questions of when, how, and where this process should begin to be implemented and in what form. It is well known that the political forces present in the Grand National Assembly and the government accept that the process to be implemented in the schools should be controlled, timed, and carried out in accordance with one program and an identical procedure.

Thus, a situation has arisen in which a purely humanitarian question is evolving to such an extent as to become a political issue, an issue that certain political forces known to some of us are frequently utilizing for speculative purposes and as a means of applying pressure on the government, the state services, and even, I would say, the supreme state bodies. It is natural that this behavior, which is of a marked political nature, should be evaluated according to its essence and its importance. We should be able to consider that this issue has been conclusively and categorically resolved, that calm will be instilled, that the study of Turkish in schools will begin at the start of the academic year, and that the preparations for this start will be carried out well, as stated in the decision of the Grand National Assembly.

Unfortunately, there are political groups or forces in Bulgaria, there are individuals who foresee or even prefer that this right should not be implemented. As chairman of the Council of Ministers and as a Bulgarian, I would like to draw attention to the fact that this viewpoint is incorrect. This viewpoint is profoundly mistaken. Bulgaria is a member of the United Nations Organization, and it cannot fail to accept the Charter of Human Rights and Liberties. We have adopted and signed the Pact on Human Rights and Freedoms, and cannot fail to guarantee conditions for their fulfillment. I, as prime minister, and the government as a whole, have repeatedly declared and will continue to do so, that the government and the Bulgarian State will guarantee the possibility for every Bulgarian citizen to enjoy all human rights and freedoms and to receive real protection of his lawful interests, regardless of his ethnic origin, self-awareness, the religion he professes, and the language he speaks.

Of course, at this moment we should not and will not forget, that Bulgarian is the official language of our state, which must be studied, and that without its knowledge no one can take up any post in the system of state government in the Bulgarian administration. We cannot fail to recognize, however, that the right of people with ethnic origins different from that of the main mass of the people must be implemented and all possibilities for this must be provided. I am bound to draw attention to the fact that this question is of importance not only for our internal life; furthermore, for this reason, it should not be assessed [words indistinct] as some kind of view we hold on future political life in Bulgaria.

We are a country undergoing a process of intense democratization. This process is both intensive and broad in scope. We want the world to accept us as a new state, a new democratic state ruled by law, which is different from the state we have already renounced, in which the people did not have equal opportunities to defend their rights and freedoms. We must remember our obligations, because the world will not accept us, will not allow us to join it, unless we are the kind of state in which all citizens have equal rights and freedoms and equal opportunities to implement them. Unless we are accepted in this way, unless Bulgaria is assessed as a partner in whom

one can have trust, a partner on an equal footing, we will not only not be accepted, we will not be able to exist. This is especially important.

I make an appeal to parents to liberate the will of their children. As of next Monday [11 March], they must return to the schools to continue a normal basic educational process. Those people who have been blocking the schools must leave them. The teachers must return to their classrooms. The situation must return to normal. Things must calm down; an atmosphere of trust and equality with an absence of confrontation must be established.

Esteemed fellow countrymen, it is immoral, wrong political behavior, and not in the spirit of Bulgarian cordiality and tolerance, especially at present, for us to sow feelings of confrontation among children of Bulgarian and Turkish origins, or to set the children against one another. Surely, our younger generation, who are our heirs, will have to live in this state, in this land, in this common atmosphere, in our common home, and in our common native land. I believe that these gross mistakes will not be forgiven.

I would also like to say that the government will fulfill this decision of the Grand National Assembly, and it will carry out its duty by precisely applying the law and taking the necessary measures to ensure calm, public order, and normal life in these towns and villages for all citizens, as well as for the educational process, as an inalienable part of our life.

I appeal to you parents, to you leaders and activists of the political forces, to you who have been standing in the streets and squares, at the schools and at the crossroads, some of which you have been blocking: Fulfill the decision of the Grand National Assembly, fulfill the decision of the government, and make your contribution to bringing life back to normal in your towns, in your villages, and I might say, in our native land. I assure you that, for its part, the government will do what is necessary and what it is bound to do to restore order in these towns and villages.

Thank you for your attention.

Mixed Reactions Follow Assembly Decision

AU0903213691 Sofia BTA in English 2005 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Sofia, March 9 (BTA)—Prime Minister Dimitur Popov called on all political forces and citizens to help turn to normal life in this country, and expressed the government's resolve to take all lawful actions to this end. [passage omitted]

The reactions to the decision of the Grand National Assembly are different, according to dispatches from the mixed-population regions. A small group of nationalistically-minded Bulgarians has stopped the traffic in Kurdzhali again for an hour today, while the students' hunger strike is going on. MP's have received numerous citizens from Kurdzhali in the city hall amidst extraordinary security measures. A group of adherents to the National Radical Party blocked the traffic in Razgrad in northern Bulgaria for some time, but in Varna this party's local branch did not go on strike as it had announced.

The leader of the Union of Democratic Forces Mr. Filip Dimitrov said in a televised interview that it is urgent to take actions to settle interethnic differences. Any delay of the final settling of these problems harms this country's image in the world, Mr. Dimitrov said.

DPS Group Walks Out of Assembly Session

AU0803194291 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] The Grand National Assembly entrusted the Council of Ministers with the task of instructing the Ministry of National Education to pursue the work related to establishing organizational and pedagogic conditions so citizens of other ethnic origins may have the opportunity of learning their language on a voluntary basis in Bulgarian schools. This measure should be introduced as of the forthcoming 1991-1992 school year. The decision was adopted under the pressure of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] majority in the Grand National Assembly. The majority refused to adopt an additional paragraph instructing the prime minister to guarantee the normal proceeding of school work in the areas with a mixed population and instructing the prosecutor's office to adopt appropriate measures against violators of law and order.

Immediately after the result of the vote was announced, the parliamentary group of the Rights and Freedom Movement [DPS] walked out of the session protesting against what they called an act of repealing a clause of the Constitution. They meant that the right of every Bulgarian citizen to learn his mother tongue has not been adopted as an integral part of the Constitution.

The last day of the current parliamentary week dealt only with the first item on its agenda. The session, which began with benevolent wishes and congratulations to Bulgarian women on the occasion of the International Women's Day, ended with the exchange of sharp remarks between deputies of the BSP and the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS), but the microphones were already switched off.

Assembly Debate Continues

AU0803220191 Sofia BTA in English 2038 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Sofia, March 8 (BTA)—After a nearly day long debate the Bulgarian parliament took a stand on the Turkish classes, but the unrest in the areas with mixed population did not subside.

Parliament assigned the government and the Ministry of Education, respectively, to keep creating conditions for

"citizens of non-Bulgarian extraction to attend optional classes of their own language from the beginning of the new school year" this autumn.

Parliament appealed to the political forces, the trade unions, the teachers, the parents and the pupils to help resume the classes and restore civil peace.

It proved hard for parliament to pass this resolution. The ad hoc commission which visited Kurdzhali two weeks ago described the situation there as explosive. There are sit-in strikes in schools and hunger strikes, traffic was brought to a standstill.

It has been repeatedly pointed out that the present unrest in Kurdzhali and the other regions is a result of the forcible change of ethnic Turks' names in 1984-1985. M.P.'s noted that whenever an important resolution is to be taken in parliament, disturbances break out, as they did now in Kurdzhali. No one, however, would risk to indicate the political forces which provoke and take advantage of the disturbances.

The debate showed the meeting points of the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) and the Movement For Rights and Freedoms (DPS). M.P.'s of the Socialist Party were blamed for the forcible change of ethnic Turks' names, an investigation of the Armed Forces Prosecutor's Office is underway. An M.P. of the SDS who was in Kurdzhali with the ad hoc parliamentary commission explained why the Prosecutor's Office and the police are not active enough in the troubled regions. He said that a former head of a committee on the "regeneration process" is now a prosecutor. Teachers were also involved in the process and that explains why they are on strike now. Judging by the vote, most probably it was the Socialists' parliamentary majority which pushed through the resolution that the Prosecutor's Office need not take measures against troublemakers.

Though the movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS) took part in the vote, its M.P.'s walked out to protest this decision which they saw as unconstitutional. An article of the Constitution expressly recognizes every Bulgarian citizen's right to study his or her mother tongue. During the debate Mr. Aden Kenan, M.P. of the DPS said that he backs the "constitutional self-determination of ethnicity and nationality." His faction immediately distanced itself from this view. Following this "act of Turkish nationalism" as it was called later in the lobby, the leader of the Social Democrats Dr. Petur Dertliev said, "it should not be allowed to change the Bulgarian national identity on a religious basis." This statement united the Socialist and the opposition M.P's after their confrontation of the previous days.

"President Zhelev will not intervene in Kurdzhali because no violation of the Bulgarian citizens' rights has been registered," the president's spokesman said at midday when nothing had been decided yet. The president's spokesman stressed that "Bulgarian politicians are indebted to the people."

It is difficult to say how parliament's decision on Turkish language classes will be greeted in the regions where feelings are running high. Until this evening only one hunger strike in Razgrad was stopped. Others in Shumen and Kurdzhali are continuing. There are blocked streets in Kurdzhali and Razgrad. Today the center of Plovdiv, the second largest Bulgarian city, witnessed a brawl that broke out on a nationalistic basis. As of tomorrow, the members of the Fatherland Party of Labor are starting a hunger strike in Varna. The Fatherland Party of Labor will withdraw its endorsement to the agreement between the political forces "unless parliament halts the introduction of the Turkish language in Bulgarian schools," the party's leader said today in Razgrad.

Tension, Unrest, Strike Continues in Kurdzhali

Education Minister Meets Kurdzhali Teachers

AU0803213891 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 2000 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] No later than one and a half hours after the Grand National Assembly session closed today, National Education Minister Matey Mateev met representatives of the more than 500 teachers who are on strike in Kurdzhali.

He answered their questions related to the future development of the Bulgarian educational system. Minister Mateev dealt with the ministry's intention of introducing thorough examinations and Bulgarian language tests as a preliminary condition for students to pass from a lower school grade to a higher one. He is personally against the establishment of private schools.

The minister briefed his audience on details related with the experiment of introducing Turkish language courses. Dimitur Andreev, chairman of the Teachers' Strike Committee in Kurdzhali, announced that the teachers' real strike will be discontinued on 11 March, but will be pursued in the form of a symbolic strike as long as the problems related to ethnic demands remain unresolved.

Protests Continue Despite Assembly Decision

AU0903213991 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1000 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Our correspondent Georgi Talev reports from Kurdzhali that, even after yesterday's decision of the Grand National Assembly to postpone the introduction of Turkish language classes in Bulgarian schools, 33 members and supporters of the Christian Patriotic Youth Union are continuing their relay hunger strike. According to (?Milyan) Marsov, the union's leader, the reason is that two of the union's demands have not been completely fulfilled; these relate to the demand for measures to improve the ecological situation in Kurdzhali and the surrounding district, and the fact that the Grand National Assembly has failed to provide full guarantees for canceling the experimental introduction of Turkish language classes.

About 20 members and supporters of the youth wing of the Bulgarian National Radical Party are also continuing their relay hunger strike. The strike committees have decided to continue the strikes until Friday 15 March.

It has become known that the strike of approximately 600 teachers in Kurdzhali Municipality is being called off. Following yesterday's meeting between the strike committee and National Education Minister Matey Mateev, as of Monday the effective strike will become a token one, and further actions will depend on the specific situation.

Following the decision of the Grand National Assembly, the expectations that the petition calling for the resignation of President Zhelyu Zhelev, Interior Minister Khristo Danov, and the government, which was started on 7 March, would be suspended have not been not justified. The collection of signatures continues.

Our Kurdzhali correspondent reports that at the moment there is no precise information concerning the 30-minute warning street blockade action by the Bulgarian National Radical Party; it is not clear whether it will be called off or will be continued on Monday.

Our Razgrad correspondent Ivo Kharizanov reports that the situation today is comparatively quiet in front of the Razgrad Regional Committee for Defense of National Interests; there is no sign of the streams of children and adults going in and out of the offices, which have become customary during the past weeks. The two tents have been taken down, the temporary first-aid post exists no more, and only the committee remains there in session, discussing the yesterday's decision of the Grand National Assembly.

The hunger strike against the experimental introduction of Turkish language studies in the Bulgarian education system, in which as many as 120 persons took part in Razgrad, Kubrat, Isperikh, and Khlebarovo Municipalities, has been called off. Today, doctors are starting medical examinations and rehabilitation of some of the school students and adults who have become extremely debilitated from taking part in the strike.

Tension Curbed in Razgrad, Continues in Kurdzhali

AU0803204591 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] The hunger strike in the Club of the Razgrad Regional Committee For Defense of National Interests was discontinued. This was announced by Evgeni (?Brunev), chairman of the local branch of the Fatherland Party of Labor, one of the participants in the hunger strike.

He and his supporters appealed to the strikers in other settlements in the area to do the same. We have no reason to pursue the protest actions, the leader of the Fatherland Party of Labor in Razgrad stated. The decision was confirmed by the final stand of the students on strike, who pointed out that one of their demands was not to be subject to administrative sanctions imposed by the school authorities. The Regional Committee for Defense of National Interests and the local branch of the Fatherland Party of Labor in Razgrad welcomed the Grand National Assembly's decision on Turkish language studies.

The 30-minute blockades of the central streets in Kurdzhali have been going on for three days. They are organized by members and supporters of the Bulgarian National-Radical Party in protest against the introduction of the Turkish language into the national educational system. Traffic in the area around the bridge on the Arda River, which connects the ancient Greek quarters with a large housing development containing as many as 30,000 apartments, was particularly critical today. Emotions reached a climax when a horse cart with three gypsy children on top stopped in front of the bridge. One of the children was given a green banner with the inscription: Freedom or Death. Several hundred reporters took pictures of the scene. At 1030 local time the chain of people blocking the bridge in the center of Kurdzhali was disbanded.

Kurdzhali Tensions Reportedly Subsiding

AU1103105191 Sofia BTA in English 0940 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Sofia, March 11 (BTA)—Three days after parliament adopted a decision on Turkish classes in the Bulgarian schools, tensions in the mixed-population regions are subsiding. On Saturday Prime Minister Dimitur Popov appealed to the public and the political forces for peace and cooperation.

Good news has finally come from Kurdzhali, writes the opposition daily "DEMOKRATSIYA." "A calm weekend in Kurdzhali," the "DUMA" correspondent says. For more than a month there were picketed schools, striking teachers, hunger strikes and daily demonstrations in the towns of Kurdzhali, Razgrad, Silistra and Shumen.

Parliament asked the government to make the necessary arrangements for the introduction of the Turkish language as an optional subject in the Bulgarian schools in the 1991/92 school year. It means that the ethnic Turks' children will continue to study their mother tongue under an experiment that has been started recently.

According to the "DEMOKRATSIYA" special correspondent, the reason for the continuing tensions in Kurdzhali was the misinterpretation of parliament's decision and the untrue press reports. Three MP's of the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) were in Kurdzhali during the weekend. They were greeted them with shouts of "traitors" but the high-running feelings subsided after discussions with the local representatives of the Fatherland Party of Labor, the Bulgarian National Radical

Party (which had been blocking the traffic) the Nationwide Committee for the Defense of National Interests and the Movement for Rights and Freedoms.

Reports are coming in that the hunger strikes of minors in Kurdzhali, Razgrad and Silistra have stopped and that classes have been resumed at some schools.

However, tensions remain high in other parts of the country. The protests in Ruse organized by the Bulgarian National Radical Party are continuing. According to the "ZEMYA" correspondent, tensions are smoldering in the town of Silistra. The public in Kurdzhali is divided over parliament's decision.

Many observers believe that the most important thing now will be the reaction of the local branches of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS). Its parliamentary faction walked out of the sitting on Friday in protest of the adopted decision. According to a DPS MP, the decision suspends a constitutional clause allowing each Bulgarian to study his mother tongue.

Civic Initiative Movement Holds Conference

AU0903213891 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1000 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Today the Civic Initiative Movement opened an extraordinary national conference in the People's Palace of Culture in Sofia. The movement was one of the original founders of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS].

The delegates will analyze their place in the SDS as an organization that has its own independent image and policy.

According to our reporter Svoboda Nedeva, in his introductory speech Lyubomir Sobadzhiev, the movement's chairman, expressed anxiety over the present situation in the country, in which it is impossible for active political life to develop. The Grand National Assembly continues to be inactive, stated Mr. Sobadzhiev. He added that the political agreement is not being fulfilled; the government is distracted by an illusory economic reform, one of the most unpopular reforms in Bulgaria; and the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] will neither admit its guilt nor declare its income and property.

Mr. Sobadzhiev said that favorable conditions are not being created for holding the forthcoming elections. In conclusion, he proposed that the movement should issue an appeal to all the social forces in the country for the convening of a roundtable before the elections with the goal of achieving a broad national consensus.

Svoboda Nedeva reports that the delegates started their debates following the chairman's speech.

Future Actions Viewed; Conference Ends

AU1003194991 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] The Extraordinary Conference of the Civic Initiative Movement ended in Sofia.

The conference analyzed the movement's forthcoming actions as an independent political organization, related to direct social involvement and defense of civic interests.

A decision was adopted on a new strategy in the elections and on creating a broad opposition formation in Bulgaria modeled after the civic forums. The decision foresees legal defense for the socially deprived circles, which were most seriously affected by the shock produced by the economic reform.

The movement will demand that the Bulgarian Socialist Party recognize its guilt and will seek legal responsibility for those guilty of causing the national economic catastrophe and economic destruction. The property owned by those persons, not acquired through labor, will be investigated. The property of nomenklatura members and speculators must be confiscated.

The conference changed the movement's charter and program. A Political Council of nine members was elected. Lyubomir Sobadzhiev was elected chairman of the Political Council, and Doncho Papazov was elected spokesman.

Civic Initiative, Businessmen Criticize Government

AU1003195091 Sofia BTA in English 1913 GMT 10 Mar 91

["The Government: Criticized From Different Sides"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, March 10 (BTA)—"It is impossible to hold elections while the communist business nomenklatura exists," said Mr. Lyubomir Sobadzhiev, leader of the Movement for Civic Initiative in the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS). "This nomenklatura is ready to establish a new semi-feudal slavery in this country," he added.

At the end of the movement's two-day conference Mr. Sobadzhiev said that Mr. Dimitur Popov's "coalition" government, as he called it, and parliament are persistently postponing the elections which will probably lead to social apathy. According to him, this procrastination will generate social unrest.

The Movement for Civic Initiative has set itself the following major tasks: The former Bulgarian Communist Party should be outlawed, the culprits for the national catastrophe should be brought to trial, and the Bulgarian Socialist (former Communist) Party should admit its guilt to the people.

Representatives of the Confederation of Private Entrepreneurs and of the Union of Employers criticized at today's conference the economic reform launched by the government. According to them, the high interest rates, the export and import duties, the excise duties and taxation have created an "aggressive medium aimed at the destruction, of private business." The two organizations expect 30 to 40 percent of the private companies to go bankrupt by the end of march. Managers in the state sector say that a large number of state-owned enterprises are threatened by bankruptcy in a couple of months. The participants in the conference believe that the deliberate distancing from the Soviet Union is also harmful to the Bulgarian economy.

The Confederation of Private Entrepreneurs renewed the moratorium on tax payments. One of the conditions for its lifting is that privatization on preferential terms for Bulgarian private companies should be speeded up.

Ex-Finance Minister Questioned at Zhivkov Trial

AU0803161891 Sofia BTA in English 1520 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Sofia, March 8 (BTA)—"When I was appointed minister, I was told I should lay out an entertainment allowance for the nomenklatura. These payments were so secret that even those who received them need not account for them," the former minister of finance Mr. Belcho Belchev today told the court hearing the Zhivkov/Balev case. The trial proceeds before a thinning audience.

While he was minister, he had to obey orders cleared with the Office of the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party (BCP). The records were destroyed in keeping with the secrecy regulations, Mr. Belcho Belchev explained.

Employees of the former BCP Partizdat publishers also testified today.

"Politburo orders were even more binding than the Council of Ministers' decisions. For instance, managers wanted to secure such orders to prove the prime importance of their projects in large-scale construction," the former minister said in a rather empty courtroom.

Mr. Belcho Belchev was asked whether Todor Zhivkov himself gave orders to the Ministry of Finance. According to the witness, Zhivkov only gave orders on budget cuts.

High-ranking state officials went on receiving the entertainment allowances for a year after they quit their posts. Prosecutor Krasimir Zhekov asked whether these allowances were justified, to which Mr. Belchev replied that highly placed civil servants in Bulgaria received such payments from the time of Prince Dondukov's provisional government of 1878 up to 1944. "Even now in the Grand National Assembly the MP's receive money designated as 'special MP expenses' and equivalent to two-thirds of their salaries," Mr. Belchev said.

The court turned down the prosecutor's request that the panel take into account discrepancies between Mr. Belchev's pre-trial and court testimonies.

Ms. Ada Zakharieva, a long-serving Partizdat editor, said that Milko Balev had legal grounds to receive fees for his efforts connected with Todor Zhivkov's works. He did enormous compilation and editing work on the first 29 volumes. He was also editor-in-chief of the other six volumes. According to rates issued in 1971, editors got between 26 and 40 leva per 12 pages.

The court took two weeks to question 24 of a total of 247 witnesses called to give evidence for the time being.

Defendant no. 1 was in high spirits today, made statements readily and wished women a happy 8 March. As far as the proceedings in the courtroom are concerned, he is sure that Bulgarians knew how matters stood from the very first day.

President Zhelev: Zhivkov To Face New Charges

AU0903214091 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1000 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Report on interview with President Zhelyu Zhelev by unidentified BBC reporter; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In an interview given to the BBC, Bulgarian President Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev stated that the Bulgarian Government intends to bring new charges against the former state leader Todor Zhivkov. The BBC notes that in the court trial now in progress Zhivkov faces charges of fraud, embezzlement, and abuses of power.

In the interview given to the famous British radio station, Dr. Zhelev stresses that Todor Zhivkov will also have to answer charges of violating the Bulgarian Constitution. The new charges will include the fomenting of hatred between Bulgarians and the Turkish minority, forced collectivization of farms, and sending dissidents to labor camps, stated Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev. According to the words of the Bulgarian president, in this way the trial might turn into a political one, but at the same time the president pointed out that Todor Zhivkov would have a full opportunity to defend himself in the trial.

Kozloduy Reactor To Be Shut Down for Refuelling

AU0803134291 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1100 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] On 1 May the No. 5 reactor of the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant will be shut down. (?Zhak Karava), deputy chairman of the Energy Industry Committee, announced to BTA. He explained that the reactor will be disconnected because it has to be overhauled and refueled.

The No. 5 reactor, which produces over 10 percent of the country's total electric power, will operate until the end of March at 75-percent capacity, and during April its output will be gradually reduced in preparation for the shutdown.

The deputy chairman announced that preparations are underway to start up the No. 6 reactor, which will compensate to some extent for the shortage of electric power. If personnel problems are resolved, it is planned to connect the reactor to the power network during April. In this connection, Mr. Karava stated that Soviet workers would no longer be employed at the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant. Of the 120 Soviet citizens presently working there, only commissioning experts will remain.

The deputy chairman announced that because of all these problems, power cuts for one hour in every four will again have to be introduced at certain times.

Leaders Commemorate Macedonian Movement Figure

AU0803140591 Sofia OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK in Bulgarian 5 Mar 91 p 1

[Temenuzhka Petrova report: "One of the Giants in Our History"]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, two successive public events were devoted to the 110th birthday of Todor Aleksandrov [hero of the pro-Bulgarian Macedonian Movement]. Young supporters of the Inner-Macedonian Revolutionary Organization [VMRO] organized a procession carrying tricolor banners and a portrait of their hero. [passage omitted]

In the afternoon a historical conference devoted to Todor Aleksandrov's life and work was held at the Fatherland Union National Council headquarters. It analyzed and disclosed numerous facts which were still unknown or passed over in silence. A festive meeting was also held at the People's Palace of Culture in Sofia attended by Grand National Assembly Chairman Nikolay Todorov and by Prime MInister Dimitur Popov, which commemorated the ideas and personality of Todor Aleksandrov.

We are meeting here to restore the name of an important figure in Bulgarian history, to end the silence around his name and achievements, and to pay well- deserved tribute to one of the most distinguished figures of the Bulgarians' national liberation movement in Macedonia. This is what Ginyo Ganev, chairman of the Nationwide Initiative Committee for the Celebration of Todor Aleksandrov's 110 birthday, stated in opening the festive meeting. [passage omitted]

Tripartite Group on Demonpolization, Unemployment

AU0803203491 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] A session of the Tripartite Commission discussed questions of personnel cuts and retraining of workers, and also problems of decentralization and demonopolization.

A sharp controversy broke out between representatives of the two trade unions on the one side, and the Union of Employers on the other side. The latter insisted that personnel cuts should amount to 30 percent. This would actually mean having 1.3 million unemployed and is in contradiction with the preliminary agreement that the personnel cuts should not exceed 10 percent.

Sharp controversies also emerged in connection with discussing decentralization and demonopolization of companies.

The next meeting of the Tripartite Commission is expected to take place by the middle of next week.

Communist Party-Revolutionary Established

AU0803214391 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 2030 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] The Bulgarian political spectrum will be enriched by a new party called the Bulgarian Communist Party-Revolutionary. [Bulgarska Komunisticheska Partiya—Revolutsionna] This was one of the decisions adopted at the Second Congress of the Bulgarian Revolutionary Youth Party that was held in Varna. The party adopted the new name Bulgarian Communist Party-Revolutionary. The delegates who represented the 111 members of the party declared that there is no other party in Bulgaria based on true Marxism-Leninism and that expresses the correct ideas of the founders Blagoev and Dimitrov. For this reason the party declares that it will fight for the preservation of socialist society in the country.

The party also assumes the task of attracting people who have not lost their faith in communism and in the values of socialism. The congress announced the decision of the newly elected Central Committee to accept the former general secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party, the Communist Todor Zhivkov as one of its members on account of the great credit he has earned in serving the international workers and communist movement, if he wishes to join. Angel Tsonev was reelected chairman of the Bulgarian Communist Party-Revolutionary Central Committee.

Dienstbier's Official Visit to Iran Previewed

LD0803160191 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1500 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Jiri Dienstbier, the federal deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, left today for an official visit to Iran. It is not ruled out that Jiri Dienstbier will also visit Kuwait, where the CSFR Embassy will be reopened. That visit depends, however, on whether the dense cloud of smoke from the burning oilfields will allow the CSFR special aircraft to land in Kuwait.

The journey is being made to maintain continuity and develop mutual political, economic, and cultural relations. The main subject of Jiri Dienstbier's talks in Tehran, including a meeting with Iranian President Rafsanjani, will, therefore, be mutual cooperation in the new conditions that are taking shape. This visit is also a reflection of the CSFR's determination to participate in the postwar development of the Persian Gulf region.

Dienstbier Returns, Comments on Talks

LD1003221491 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 2030 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Jiri Dienstbier, Czechoslovak deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, returned this evening from Iran after a two-day official visit. He granted an interview at Prague Airport to Czechoslovak radio and television. Vladimir Vjercak reports:

[Vjercak] Replying to my question on what the political talks with Iranian representatives was like, Minister Jiri Dienstbier said that it was a very sensitive issue because both the Near and Middle East have for more than 40 years been a powder keg, and the developments there have been influencing events in the world much more than those in other regions. Thus we believe, Jiri Dienstbier said, that we should approach the solutions jointly. The Iranian stand in this respect is known. It proceeds from the assumption that only the will of the states in the area is decisive.

Concerning talks with Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, questions of a future security system in the Persian Gulf area were discussed. A joint project of gas pipelines in which Iran is interested and in which countries of the Pentagonal and the World Bank could take part was also discussed.

In reply to the very sensitive issue concerning deliveries of military equipment, Jiri Dienstbier said that here the important fact is whether there will be some agreement of views reached between countries in this area and countries exporting weapons concerning the extent of completing the armament of the Near East, or if this will not be achieved and an arms race will start in this area as in the past. Only the future will tell all this, Jiri Dienstbier, minister of foreign affairs, concluded after his return to Czechoslovakia from his visit to Iran.

Dienstbier Remarks on Country's Presence in Gulf

AU0403183891 Prague CTK in English 1601 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Prague Feb 28 (CTK)— Czechoslovakia will renew activities of its representational offices in both Kuwait and Iraq as soon as it is possible, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier told CTK today.

The situation in both countries is now being assessed and the Czechoslovak Ambassador to Kuwait, Tomas Strakos, will be returning there to reestablish the office in the next few days, said Dienstbier. The situation in Iraq is more complicated because it is not yet clear how the political situation there is going to develop.

The foreign minister said that the fate of the Czechoslovak anti-chemical unit stationed in Saudi Arabia also depends on developments in the near future. Included in the unit are doctors and other specialists who will be needed to assist the civilian population, noted Dienstbier.

Kuwaiti officials have indicated that states that are part of the anti-Iraq coalition will have priority in the postwar renewal of Kuwait, said Deputy Foreign Minister Martin Palous. He added that Saddam Husayn is clearly to blame for the conflict in the Persian Gulf and that Czechoslovakia will determine what kind of relations it will have with Iraq only after consulting with other countries.

Some Mideast Travel Restrictions Lifted

LD0803143191 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1130 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Egon Lansky, Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman, said today that, regarding the improvement of the security situation in the Persian Gulf and neighboring areas, the ministry is immediately lifting the measures restricting travel by our citizens to Bahrain, Iran, Israel, Yemen, Jordan, Qatar, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Sudan, and Syria and to areas adjacent to Iran and Turkey. The ministry points out at the same time that regarding the continuing tension in the region, it is essential to maintain increased caution during visits to these countries. The ministry still does not recommend trips to Iraq, where local armed clashes continue, drinking water and electricity are in short supply, and where there is also an acute danger of the development of epidemics. With the exception of absolutely essential cases, Czechoslovak institutions and citizens should also abstain from traveling to Kuwait and ensure that women and children do not stay there.

Pithart Arrives in Prague; Evaluates Russia Visit

LD0803222391 Prague CTK in English 2133 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Prague March 8 (CTK)—Czech Prime Minister Petr Pithart told CTK after return from Russia here today that it has been agreed that bilateral trade will be carried out in world prices. Payments will not be in dollars but according to a list which will be permanently checked to prevent any big differences.

For this purpose, a joint stock company, Russian Banking House, will be set up here to oversee these payments, Pithart said.

Commenting on his meeting with Soviet Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov Pithart said that he asked him to hand over to Czechoslovakia all documents concerning the events 22 years ago (the 1968 occupation of Czechoslovakia by five Warsaw Pact member states). Pavlov promised access to state archives but the most significant documents are most probably in the party or KGB archives, Pithart said and pointed out that he will repeat this demand on any occasion.

The young generation of Soviet politicians showed understanding and good will but their possibilities are restricted, Pithart said, summing up his three-day official visit to Russia.

Havel Receives Slovakia's Meciar for Talks

LD0803230591 Prague Domestic Service in Slovak 2200 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar briefed President Vaclav Havel in Prague Castle this evening on the current political situation in Slovakia. He also discussed the reasons that led to the emergence of a new platform in Public Against Violence [VPN]. Both officials also spoke about a referendum and the drafting of the new constitutions.

According to the president's press spokesman, Michael Zantovsky, the Slovak prime minister stressed that he has been calling for a referendum in both public and political talks for some time now.

Vaclav Havel and Vladimir Meciar also focused on the situation in the Slovak media and plans by certain Slovak movements and forces to hold rallies and demonstrations on Monday, 11 March in a bid to declare the supremacy of Slovak laws and Slovak sovereignty. According to the Slovak prime minister, such a danger does indeed exist, but it is not the will of the majority and, therefore, is not serious, either.

In his talk with Vaclav Havel, Vladimir Meciar again emphasized that he personally was a supporter of the federation.

In the context of the split in VPN, he stressed that in this dispute, too, just as in the case of Civic Forum, he remains neutral. He protested the claims that the division of VPN was motivated or even organized in Prague.

Calfa Interviewed on VPN, Economy, Foreign Aid

LD0803230691

[Editorial Report] Prague Federal 1 Television Network in Czech and Slovak at 1850 GMT on 8 February carries its regular "Ten Minutes With The Prime Minister" program, a live or recorded interview, the place and date of which are not given, with Czechoslovak Prime Minister Marian Calfa by an unidentified reporter. Calfa is first asked about the split in Public Against Violence [VPN] and to explain the difference between the two VPN platforms.

Calfa, speaking in Slovak, says: "For the time being, no fundamental program statement by the new platform is available; it is only now being prepared. Nevertheless, it is not correct to speak about two platforms, as what in fact exists is the Slovak VPN Council. This Council implements the conclusions of the Topolcany VPN congress. The VPN election program is available, and it was further outlined in the Slovak Government's program statement. Parts of it were, in fact, included in the federal government's program statement, as we are implementing the whole program of both movements. This is the first point.

"Second, on the basis of what was revealed, I would say that some kind of a national element is emphasized by the new platform. Certain emphasis is placed on implementing those elements of the Chance for Slovakia program—the VPN election program—which mean implementing national sovereignty. Understandably, as far as the implementation of economic reform is concerned, the element of a certain softening of its conditions—visible now for some months—and implementation of other possible measures, taking into account specific features existing in Slovakia, is being pushed forward."

Calfa is then asked about current emphasis of national issues. He says: "Now it becomes clear that the view describing the situation as if there were two concepts—a national one and a federal one—is not correct, as in fact the entire affair takes place on the Slovak political platform. There are two views about the future of Slovak policy, the future of VPN, which is the strongest political movement in Slovakia. It becomes clear that it is not the republican-federal or Slovak-federal issue, as that it is in fact Slovakia's search for a new path between two trends on the Slovak political platform." Calfa points out that the declaration published today by the new platform emphasizes the principle of national sovereignty.

The reporter asks: "Do you dare to guess who is going to support this new platform, or which political forces will support it?"

Calfa responds: "It is always difficult to foretell such things; just a week ago we came to realize that things are

much more difficult in life. Nevertheless, an interesting thing is that the new platform, which also includes representatives of the Slovak Government, is given the biggest and most fundamental support, even in the form of some public statements by those forces opposing the government. They include the former Communist Party of Slovakia—today, the Party of Democratic Left—as well as the Slovak National Party, Social Democracy in Slovakia, and others. This certainly shows something."

Calfa is then asked about the impact of the events in Slovakia on the situation within the federal government. Calfa says that ministers were delegated by VPN and continue to be its representatives. He says they support that part of the VPN movement that was born at the Topolcany congress.

The reporter then moves on to economic reform, and asks: "Do you think that all the current political conflicts can influence our economic reform, and if so, how?"

Calfa responds: "Yes, they can influence it, and they can influence it very substantially. This is our great fear." He goes on to note that it was a very lengthy and difficult process to formulate the blueprint for economic reform, and says therefore we should begin implementing it. He continues: "I would like to emphasize one more thing: We do not have any possibility to implement our economic reform other than with foreign aid, as we are really an economically weak country. Moreover, as far as the economy is concerned, from the beginning of this year we have been divided in two parts. In these conditions, we understandably have to count on foreign aid. We do receive it, but nevertheless, we receive it on the basis that the starting principles of our economic reform were approved. The world of economics and finances follows closely what we are doing; it is natural. They do it in order not to throw their money out of the window by helping us, to check that we are not pouring it down the drain. Therefore, views about some kind of softening or changing our economic reform, or using different methods to carry it out from some kind of a national viewpoint—this really means that it is possible to expect that foreign financial and economic relations with us will be reassessed."

Prime Minister Calfa Interviewed on Constitution

AU0703162191 Prague ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY in Czech
5 Mar 91 pp 1, 4

[Interview with CSFR Prime Minister Marian Calfa by Katerina Sladkova; place and date not given: "Why Is Marian Calfa Not Applauded at Home?"; first paragraph is ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY introduction]

[Text] It has been said about women that they are creatures that do not know what they want, yet they will not stop until they get it. This unflattering definition came to my mind when I was asking Federal Prime Minister Marian Calfa questions about the sore points in the Slovak Republic's relations with the federation.

[Sladkova] Mr. Carnogursky (Christian Democratic Movement) [KDH] suggests concluding—within the framework of the state-and-legal arrangement— some kind of state treaty between the Czech and Slovak Republics. As a lawyer, what is your opinion of this solution?

[Calfa] For a state treaty to be concluded—and this pertains to any treaty—we need positive consent from the contractual partners. This is called consensus, and at least two partners are always needed for it. Czech National Council Chairwoman Dagmar Buresova has informed me about this matter saying that the Czech National Council Civic Forum Club, which has an absolute majority here, has expressed a negative viewpoint on the possibility of concluding a state treaty; this is an important signal.

The second problem that we must not ignore is the fact that this alternative completely eliminates the federation's representative bodies. In this connection, I asked a principal question: Whom are the 130 Federal Assembly deputies elected in the Slovak Republic and the 170 deputies elected in the Czech Republic representing, if the matter that is in their jurisdiction is decided without them—instead of by them—by the two National Councils? These deputies were elected in the same elections as the National Council deputies—they even needed more votes to be elected. That is to say—if we are to have a certain division of responsibilities, or, if you want, jurisdictions—the National Councils have their rights and obligations, and the Federal Assembly has its rights and obligations. The drafting of the Federal Constitution is, undoubtedly, within the jurisdiction of the deputies elected to the federal bodies. This task really does not belong to the National Councils, because the voters have not given them their mandates for doing so.

The third element, which must not be overlooked, are the aspects of international law. From the point of view of international law, the concept of a state treaty presumes two equal subjects that would be able to conclude an international treaty about establishing a third, common-state formation. In other words, one must first constitute these two state entities, and later they will establish a new state entity.

[Sladkova] Nevertheless, how would it be possible to abolish what already exists, that is, the CSFR?

[Calfa] If you put it this way, I must repeat my statement that the National Councils' deputies have not received a mandate to interfere in the federal arrangement. On the contrary, the decisive political forces—from among whose ranks the National Councils' deputies appeared in the elections—have the federation directly in their election program. How can they assume the right to abolish the federation?

[Sladkova] It seems to me that we are becoming more and more entangled. The National Councils cannot abolish the federation, the Federal Assembly will hardly abolish it on its own, yet it seems as if some Slovak

politicians are not aware of this reality. What if they simply decide that Slovakia will leave the federation?

[Calfa] Breaking off from the federation would mean its annihilation; however, since the Slovak National Council deputies do not have the mandate to decide about the abolition of the federation—at least not under the current constitutional situation—only a referendum would be able to decide. If such a referendum is held, the question in the referendum would probably read: Do you wish to live in a common, federatively arranged state - Yes? No? I am firmly of the opinion—and all the public opinion polls confirm my view —that, at this moment, the majority of citizens would answer - yes. All those great political disputes between the representatives of our nations would stop immediately. I have the impression that this is also the reason why we are unable to "push" the law on referendum through the National Councils and through the Federal Assembly. We must realize that this [law on referendum] would supplant the decisions and will of the deputies.

[Sladkova] There are also political and intellectual disputes about the method of building the federation. A slightly modified question asked by Hamlet is: From below or from above?

[Calfa] In my opinion, this question is completely wrong. Nothing comes from below or from above. The federation exists, and everyone must realize this fact; therefore, it is necessary to sit down with a cool head and to think how to improve it. The world of which we are a part counts on the CSFR and communicates with it at various levels, and we have many obligations toward this world. Would it be wise to destroy all this because of some strange internal motives?

[Sladkova] Apparently your ideas are not accepted with much enthusiasm in Slovakia?

[Calfa] Of course, when I am asking these questions, they do not applaud too much. I am undermining the idea that the federation should be built from below. I do not even agree with the idea that everything is bad and that something qualitatively good can only come from Slovakia or Bohemia. If I am asking what to do with the deputies that were elected by citizens in free elections to the Federal Assembly, the answer is accompanied by a smile. They say verbally: "Those Slovaks that are in Prague are not Slovaks any more, they are some kind of Czechoslovakists who are serving the Czechs." I do not have to stress how silly this is.

[Sladkova] The growth of national feelings—which can undoubtedly be attributed to adroit manipulation by some ambitious politicians—leads us considerably astray from the solution to vitally important problems. Do you have a prescription for facing this threat?

[Calfa] It is really very difficult. In fact, a game that plays with national feelings is involved here—this game is always efficient if the nation does not notice this on time. It raises in a man the feeling of proudness and togetherness that strengthens him internally and amplifies his feeling of being important. If the nation gets rid of the illusion, however, it can settle scores with its manipulators very quickly. The are a number of such examples in history. I am in favor of complete openness. It is not necessary to label anyone, yet it is always necessary to say in a completely objective manner who is who, what is he after, and what is his idea about the future of the nation. I am really not sure whether the steps we are taking now are to the benefit of the Czech, as well as the Slovak nation. The problem is that we lack arguments. Only the realization of the proclaimed intentions—their specific impact on the people—can serve as arguments. It is bad, but the plain truth will become apparent only when there is some defect, and this can influence millions of people. There is no other way of verification, all the rest is empty words.

Communist Leaders Express Views on Current Issues

AU0803170291 Prague CTK in English 1658 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] Prague March 6 (CTK)— The Communist Party is not going to submit a counter-proposal to the government's draft of a new federal constitution, said Czechoslovak Communist Party Chairperson Pavol Kanis today.

The Communists support the idea of a bipartite federation, constructed on national principles, with the status of Moravia and Silesia to be established within the framework of the Czech Republic, Kanis said at the Communists' weekly press conference. Furthermore they favor a parliamentary form of government over a "strong president" system.

Kanis interprets the conflict within the Slovak movement Public Against Violence (VPN) as a conflict over the interpretation of a nation, with the two sides of the conflict represented by Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar and the Castle, the seat of the Czechoslovak president, located in Prague, not Meciar and VPN Chairperson Fedor Gal, as some suggest.

While supporters of Gal tend to be cosmopolitan, Meciar and his circle stress national interest, the logical result of Slovak development up to now, according to Kanis. Supposedly the Slovak prime minister fears that the "Klaus reform" will have very unfavorable effects on some areas in Slovakia, leading to high unemployment and the emergence of a social crisis.

Also speaking at the press conference was the head of the Club of Communist Deputies in the Federal Assembly, Miroslav Grebenicek, who said the recently passed laws on property restitution and privatization of big businesses represent a serious reversal of the economic reform.

These laws will lead to a number of complicated disputes over inheritance and ownership, delaying the progress of reform, decreasing foreign trust in Czechoslovak stability, and bringing unfavorable consequences for the population, Grebenicek said.

He added that the Communist deputies support the government's land bill over an alternative proposal submitted by deputies in parliament.

Democratic Left Urges End to Federative Passions

LD0903222891 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 2030 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] The Czechoslovak Democratic Left today called on the leaders of political parties and movements to put an end to the passions and ambitions that are leading to the breakup and destruction of the common federation of Czechs, Slovaks, and other members of different nationalities. On behalf of its members and sympathizers, it calls for level headedeness and common sense on the part of everyone who wishes to play a political role in today's democratic society.

The Democratic Left calls on the Federal Assembly to adopt a law on a referendum. It appeals to the public to support this viewpoint and to voice their views on the actions of the current political leaders but not on the streets.

Pithart, Dienstbier Elected to Civic Movement

LD0903204691 Prague CTK in English 1742 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Prague March 9 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier, Deputy Prime Minister Pavel Rychetsky, Chairwoman of the Czech parliament Dagmar Buresova and Czech Prime Minister Petr Pithart were elected members of the Presidium of the Civic Movement at a session of its Preparatory Committee here today.

The Civic Movement was created after the split of the Civic Forum. It is already registered as a political subject. The other grouping which emerged from the split at a Civic Forum extraordinary congress on February 23-24, the Civic Democratic Party, has not yet been registered.

The two groupings agreed upon coordinating their activities both in the Czechoslovak and Czech parliament next year.

Composition of New OF Umbrella Body Reported

AU0803140791 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 6 Mar 91 p 2

[CTK report in the "Briefly" column]

[Text] The Civic Forum [OF] Council held its last meeting in Prague yesterday. It will henceforth be replaced by the OF Coordinating Committee, the new umbrella body for the two streams of the divided OF. Members of the Coordinating Committee for the Civic Democratic Party are V. Klaus, M. Macek, P. Cermak, P. Hapala, and O. Vaca. Its members for the Civic Movement are P. Rychetsky, M. Bursik, M. Masatova, J. Soukup, and L. Kinst. The OF Coordinating Center decided to terminate the publication of OBCANSKY DENIK, the OF daily, by the end of March 1991.

Civic Initiative Assesses Aims of Vladimir Meciar

LD1003212391 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1730 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Standpoint of Civic Initiative on the current political situation read by signatory Anton Popovic: "For the Protection of Democracy"]

[Text] We do not want to throw doubt on the democratic intentions of the newly founded platform Public Against Violence - for Democratic Slovakia. As independent observers of the political scene, we only want to point out a number of facts that will describe the newly founded platform in further details; we proceed from interviews provided by Vladimir Meciar to a number of dailies lately, in the sense that this is an effort to promote stability. The first important fact is that the Slovak prime minister appealed to the workers to found their [VPN] organizations in their own enterprises. In an effort to link the newly created basic organizations, the Platform for Democratic Slovakia is working very hard in the districts. In its trips to the districts, the platform counts on significant help from Messrs. Dubcek, Cic, Laloha, Koctuch, and other representatives of Obroda and of the Independent Movement of Slovak Economists.

If we think about the past of the majority of Obroda members—their links to the former regime, their alleged contacts with the secret police—this activity by the Platform for Democratic Slovakia can be seen as an effort to prevent screening in Slovakia which would obviously significantly thin out the closest fellow workers of Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar.

Also, the contacts of the new platform with trade unions, which is a refuge for Communists, should not be overlooked. It is more than obvious that the current state of the Slovak economy does not make it possible to fulfill the conclusions of the tripartite agreement—for example the 6 percent increase in wages. The first signs are appearing that show that on this occasion the trade unions are able to begin a strike.

It is therefore enough for Prime Minister Meciar to destabilize the political and economic situation in Slovakia, slow down the progress of the economic reform, put all the blame on Deputy Prime Minister Kocerak, who is a representative of a liberal economic wing, and

get together indirectly with trade unions on the unified platform of reform socialism.

Apart from this, the Platform for Democratic Slovakia is already cooperating with the Forums of Workers and Agricultural Workers. The Forum of Workers does not even try to hide its national social character. It is enough to quote, for example, that former professors of Marxism-Leninism are significantly represented in its leadership, as well as former professors of the political economy.

The entire activity of the Platform for the Democratic Slovakia is aiming at the unification of national and social forces and at bringing the situation to a head. Its aim is to achieve political power. In his numerous speeches, Vladimir Meciar has openly cast doubts on the principles of parliamentary democracy, and therefore it can be expected that he will try to achieve his aims in a similar way to the Communists in 1948.

The Slovak Ministry of Interior, which is clearly furtively ruled today by Vladimir Meciar, will certainly play its role in this too. Therefore, we have a situation that is exceptionally dangerous, not only for the development of Slovakia, but for the entire Central European region. It seems unlikely that the USSR will not go on trying, through people who are ideologically inclined toward it, to maintain its influence over a strategically important territory, as Slovakia undoubtedly is.

Slovak National Council Session Ends

LD0803204391 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1600 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] The 11th session of the Slovak National Council ended in Bratislava today. Its deputies approved the bill on the state fund for forest reproduction and a proposal by a group of deputies to issue a law of the Slovak National Council that amends the laws on the municipal setup, on the capital of the Slovak Republic of Bratislava, and on the city of Kosice. Today the deputies also approved a report on the activity of the Slovak National Council Presidium in the period from 15 February to 6 March.

Some members of the Slovak Government then answered deputies' questions. For example Agriculture and Food Minister Michal Dzatko explained some aspects of the current agricultural policy.

The plenum was quite animated by the controversy regarding the recommendation by the government Council for Information Policy in the Mass Media not to broadcast direct relays and the demonstrations of political parties and movements. In a mutual exchange of views between deputies, mainly from the Public Against Violence and the Slovak National Party, it was proposed, among other things, that the organizers of meetings themselves pay for a radio or television direct relay.

Ten Federal Assembly Deputies Join VPN Faction

AU0803135391

[Editorial Report] Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak on 6 March on pages 1 and 2 carries a 400-word statement entitled "Original Platform of the Public Against Violence [VPN] Movement Founded." The statement announces the formation of the "Preparatory Committee of the VPN Original Platform." Bratislava VEREJNOST in Slovak on 7 March on page 2, under the headline "For the VPN Program," carries a 200-word statement signed by 10 deputies to the Federal Assembly for the VPN, in which they announce that they are joining the "VPN Original Platform."

The statement in the 6 March issue of NARODNA OBRODA expresses support for Slovak Prime Minister Meciar and Minister Knazko's 3 March speech on Slovak Television and "rejects the deliberately waged campaign against the so-called nationalism, separatism, chauvinism, anti-Semitism, efforts at concentration of power, etc., the aim of which is to discredit those representatives of our movement who consistently uphold the national interests of Slovakia." The authors of the statement also protest against the "undemocratic methods of work used by some leading VPN representatives, particularly Messrs. Gal, Flamik, Tatar, and Zajac" and declare their loyalty to the VPN's "A Chance for Slovakia" electoral platform. They announce that, "guided by apprehension about the VPN's further development," they have decided to set up within the movement the "VPN Original Platform." The signatories of the statement are S. Cifra, M. Majtan, E. Rusnakova, J. Olejar, A. Matejka, and K. Kabat. According to a NARODNA OBRODA post scriptum, the following VPN officials have also "joined the VPN Original Platform": Milan Knazko, Vladimir Meciar, Jan Budaj, Augustin M. Huska, R. Filkus, R. Zelenay, and A. Hric.

The statement in the 7 March issue of VEREJNOST endorses the aforementioned statement and expresses the signatories' readiness to "take part in the work of the Preparatory Committee of the VPN Political Platform." The signatories also announce that they are joining the "Interparliamentary Club set up under the Preparatory Committee of the VPN Original Platform." The statement is signed by the following Federal Assembly deputies for the VPN: M. Kontra, I. Laluha, A. Ondrejkovic, J. Minka, M. Kovac, J. Veverka, J. Zlocha, E. Belusova, V. Sobona, and V. Vicen.

VPN Council Emergency Meeting Passes Resolution

AU0803173191 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 7 Mar 91 p 2

[CTK report: "Five Key Points Remain: Resolution of the Slovak Council of the Public Against Violence Movement (VPN)"]

[Text] Bratislava— At its meeting in Bratislava, which ended early yesterday morning, the Slovak Council of the Public Against Violence [VPN] movement adopted the following resolution:

At its first meeting after the Republican Assembly at Topolcany, the VPN Slovak Council co-opted these members: Alexander Dubcek, Zuzana Mistrikova, Jan Pisut, Milan Sutovec, and Ernest Valko.

The VPN Slovak Council elected its Presidium. Its members are: Fedor Gal, Frantisek Miklosko, Jozef Kucerak, Marcel Stryko, Marian Calfa, Vladimir Cecetka, Peter Zajac, Miroslav Kusy, Martin Butora, Juraj Flamik, and Daniel Brezina. The VPN Slovak Council confirmed Fedor Gal in the post of chairman of the VPN Slovak Council. It noted that the legitimacy and the activity of the VPN Slovak Council stem from the conclusions of the republican assembly.

At its extraordinary meeting, the VPN Slovak Council also dealt with the problems that have arisen in connection with Minister Milan Knazko's speech on Slovak Television on 3 March 1991 and Prime Minister Meciar's subsequent statements on radio and television. The VPN Slovak Council sees in the willful and unjustifiable action of Mr. Knazko and Mr. Meciar a violation of the principles of cooperation in the movement. The VPN Slovak Council demonstrated great efforts to ascertain the facts of the case and to resolve problems. Minister Knazko and Prime Minister Meciar did not accept the criticism and, instead of attempting to solve the problems, they walked out of the conference hall. Apart from Mr. Knazko and Mr. Meciar, 13 members of the VPN Slovak Council left the Council meeting. An additional five members of the Slovak Council had sent a letter of apology. Because 55 out of 75 members of the VPN Slovak Council were present, the meeting had a quorum and was able to proceed with the agenda.

The VPN Slovak Council will continue to base its work on the "A Chance for Slovakia" program, the key elements of which are: a sovereign Slovak Republic within the framework of the federation; integrity of the territory of the Slovak Republic projected into an administrative arrangement based on historical continuity; continuation of radical economic reform; building a multiparty political system in Slovakia and cooperation with coalition partners; and building the VPN on democratic principles.

We proceed from the priority of morality, truth, and tolerance over cheaply won popularity. We support our representatives in the Slovak National Council, the Federal Assembly, the Slovak Government, and the Federal Government who remain loyal to these principles.

Meciar Addresses Democratic Slovakia Meeting

LD0803205791 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1600 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] The senior representatives of the platform VPN [Public Against Violence] - For Democratic Slovakia, led by Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar, briefed the citizens of six districts and some Bratislava districts about the reasons why they split from the VPN Coordinating Center.

Vladimir Meciar addressed a meeting in Trnava speaking about the genesis of the developments within VPN and said that the new platform does not seek the destruction of the federation but would fight for the full sovereignty of Slovakia as a modern democratic state. He noted that the new platform continues to observe the principles of the Chance for Slovakia program but intends to change the ways and methods of its implementation. According to Vladimir Meciar, the new platform VPN - For Democratic Slovakia intends to cooperate with the VPN Coordinating Center and take the joint course of action until the beginning of the election campaign.

Meciar Interviewed on VPN Split

LD0803213991 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1730 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Interview with Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar by Jan (Janosi) in Trnava on 8 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] On the proposal of the Trnava initiative of the Public Against Violence [VPN], a meeting of Trnava's citizens was held today. [passage omitted]

Jan (Janosi) editor of the RADIOJOURNAL, interviewed Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar at the Trnava meeting:

[Meciar] Today was the first time that the concept of future relations in the VPN has been publically presented in a situation when there are two factions, yet the movement and its program are preserved.

We presented the issue of possible joint participation in the activity of the government and in the bodies of the legislature until they finish their regular activity in two years, or until another alternative is accepted. I think that it is possible to preserve the unity of the movement while respecting the differences of the two partners. Furthermore, all its members can fulfill all of their tasks in the government and in the legislature.

[(Janosi)] We know that you parted, but we do not know why.

[Meciar] We parted because of our understanding of the national program. The direction represented by the other side is based more on a Czechoslovak concept rather than that of Slovakia. It gives priority to the position of federal bodies, while we, when speaking about the order of steps, we give priority to Slovak bodies and from them the jurisdiction of the federal bodies and the position of the federal constitution will be derived.

Another difference is in our view of economic reform. Nobody doubts that reform needs to happen; however, reform must be applied to the local Slovak condition.

The VPN did not place any emphasis on this, and by concentrating on the personality of Mr. Kucerak as the only representative of reform in Slovakia, we have found ourselves in a situation where communication between economists has disappeared. In this way, considerable lack of unity was created that started to slow down the economy, and this was regarding views on agriculture, views on priority, views on the solution of local problems, also in views on the building of infrastructure. These matters are linked.

We also differ in our understanding of some social aspects. The direction toward the right says that social aspects are derived, and it is the reform that has priority. Our answer is: Yes, reform has priority, but the reform must be carried out in such a way that it is socially bearable, that it will not cost so much that the population, which will be socialy dissatisfied, will start political actions and throw out all those who want to carry out the reform. After this, quite a different path will be followed.

We also disagreed on internal democracy. We have quite opposite views on the relations between the party and the state.

[(Janosi)] We expected you to introduce today a draft of the new constitution.

[Meciar] Regarding the draft constitution, it is ready. It went through opponent proceedings. It is a constitution that has a chance to win a three-fifths majority in the Slovak National Council. I do not want to present it as my own. It will be a constitution that will be proposed by the new platform in the VPN For Democratic Slovakia that actually represents this program. It is based on the Constitution of Bavaria. Therefore, all who doubt this constitution and say they have not seen it are mistaken, because even if they have not read it, they know exactly what it contains.

[(Janosi)] I attended a number of meetings in your support held in Bratislava this week. In fact, you were also associated with a declaration of an independent Slovak state.

[Meciar] One of those people who commented on this subject said that their support is for me as a person, and the Slovak state is what they expect from me. Therefore, the question stands like this: Can we, in the present situation, afford to declare the Slovak state? Can anybody realistically expect that such a state would be recognized by anybody in Europe? Can anybody expect that our eocnomy, as well as the entire social system and market system, would function between Bohemia and Slovakia without somebody regulating them?

Therefore, despite the fact that I discussed these questions with representatives of the political parties that subscribe to the national aspect, all of them envision the need for some sort of a center to exist that would give future events in Czechoslovak some direction. The differences emerge in discussions about the position of such a center and the range of its powers. This is the issue on which individual trends differ. Nevertheless, at present I have not met anybody in Slovakia who would declare that Slovakia is going to be an independent state tomorrow. I support a sovereign Slovakia that can, as the bearer of its sovereignty, delegate a part of its sovereignty—those matters in which it is advantageous for it—to federal bodies. We support such a federation system.

Regarding the range of powers, this is open to discussion on whether we are going to be two or three, depending on the development of the situation in Moravia and Silesia, as well as according to the experiences we currently have with the federal bodies. We have the law on power sharing, but the transfer of powers has not taken place yet—our experiences are rather problematic, they are not unequivocally good.

Calfa, Others Issue VPN Statement

LD0803221891 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1730 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] About an hour ago, a statement by the VPN [Public Against Violence] Deputies' Clubs in the Federal Assembly and Slovak legislature was delivered to our studio. It is signed by 35 deputies, including Marian Calfa, Milan Sutovec, Jozef Baksay, and Peter Tatar.

The deputies' statement notes that they believe that the repeated attempts to put the will of the supreme executive bodies above the will of the legislatures represent dangerous attacks against democracy and the results of the first legislative elections. At the same time, they express conviction that one of the sources of social destabilization is the fact that some former collaborators of state security and people responsible for the wrongs committed by the former regime continue to work in the supreme bodies of state administration and power.

At the end of their statement, members of the Deputies' Clubs of VPN in the Federal Assembly and the Slovak legislature express their approval of the conclusion adopted at the Topolcany [VPN] congress and of the VPN Council newly elected on 5 March this year.

Meciar, Dubcek Appeal to Slovaks for Calm

LD1003173491 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1530 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Federal Assembly Chairman Alexander Dubcek and Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar granted a statement to CTK today. The statement says that, guided by their concern for the democratic development of the Slovak Republic, they are turning to all citizens of Slovakia. With respect to the further development of the Slovak Republic on the basis of its own constitution in a common Czechoslovak federative statehood, and also in the period of political tension related to political developments and to historical recollections, they appeal to the citizens for calm and dignified behavior. Do not let yourselves be influenced by extremism of any kind.

Possible demonstrations of emotions, passions, and intolerance can only make the democratic development of Slovakia more difficult. Both of us will be abroad this week, but our hearts will be with you, Alexander Dubcek and Vladimir Meciar note in the conclusion of their statement.

Meciar Comments on VPN, Slovak Events

LD1003214491 Bratislava Slovak 1 Television Network in Slovak 1902 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Weekly address by Slovak Prime Minster Vladimir Meciar; place and date not given: "The Slovak Prime Minster Speaks"—recorded]

[Excerpts] Good evening fellow citizens. After a short silence, I am speaking to you again. The events of last week showed that the situation, God willing, will not occur in Slovakia whereby anyone should want to control the prime minster.

The right to hold one's own opinion is one of the basic human rights. To hold that opinion, to voice it, to promulgate it—all this is part of the all-embracing basis of human rights. No one can give you these rights. They are given to each one of us at the time of our birth, and they die with us. They are lifelong rights. These rights can only be taken away or restricted. Anyone who infringes these rights, no matter where and no matter who, behaves in an undemocratic way and is at variance with the purpose of our social progress, with the purpose of the legislative changes that have been adopted in constitutional law and are being drawn up in the new constitutions. Consequently, it is necessary to be sensitive to these matters regarding everyone everywhere.

The events of the past week have also shown that various political views and standpoints exist within many movements, including the Public Against Violence [VPN] movement. The fact that one current of opinion has become active was not caused by these events. They acted only as a catalyst, and they accelerated something that had already been festering inside for some considerable time. It is possible to hold different political views, but it is necesary to behave in such a way that the government, the Slovak National Council, and the Federal Assembly can carry out the tasks that they all undertook in their election manifestos, which they declared to you, and which they promised in the government programs. That is why we think that before the new election campaign gets under way, a certain degree of unity should be preserved, while respecting the diversities, so that the activity of those bodies is not disrupted and destabilized. That is a test of the degree of tolerance, willingness to work together with someone who holds a different view, and indeed the ability to work with someone who thinks differently. [passage omitted]

In the next few days, we will be celebrating [the anniversary of] 14 March 1939 [declaration of the Slovak state]. Various reports and standpoints are appearing on how differnt groups intend to mark that date. Let us leave the past to the historians. Let us live in the present; let us live for our future and that of our children. I ask you particularly to ensure in the future that nothing happens to tarnish the good name of the Slovak Republic abroad and that nothing happens that would jeopardize the further constitutional development of our state. There are too many eyes watching us, too many analysts waiting to see how things will turn out in Slovakia. I know that there will be no second Balkans here, but there could be other extremes in the next few days that ought not to occur in our political culture and life.

I ask you to think: you all need to be something of a politician. Even though we thought that we would be able to focus primarily and solely on the economy, nonetheless we are still in a way being pulled backwards, and we must pay political attention to this with all the emphasis the situation demands of us.

On the day you listen to this talk, I am expecting to be in Italy. From there we will be going on to the Soviet Union. The journeys we make as representatives of the government are routine. So far they have all be useful, and their results have brought considerable benefits for the Slovak Republic. We know that we would not have obtained such results in any other way.

The visit to Italy has been prepared by agreement; we shall be dealing with economic matters and meeting leading officials. Above all, I rank in first place a visit to the Vatican and the holy father. Then we will be meeting Mr. Andreotti, the chairman of the Democratic Party, and many businessmen with whom we will be discussing possibilities of aid to the Slovak Republic through investment, trade, technical assistance, training, employment, and so forth. I will report back to you on the results.

From Italy we will be flying directly to the Soviet Union for a visit. I have been invited to the Soviet Union by the Soviet premier, and, in addition to Moscow, I am also to visit Kiev. This visit has been called into question in many sectors of the media with comments like: Who knows what that Meciar will be up to on those visits of his. I would like to say that Mr. Pithart has been on a visit to the Soviet Union, and no one called his visit into question. Everyone took it as a natural and indispensable condition on the path of tackling the trade problems that exist in our relations. My visit, and that of the delegation that I am heading, however, is called into question without anyone even knowing the program of the talks and meetings. This is unseemly, and it shows that certain groups are not interested in the success of the visit. I wish to point out that the visit has no political motives. The visit has one single purpose, and that is to find possibilities for improving mutual trade relations, to find a way in which we can, on a reciprocal basis, manage to carry out this exchange of goods. [passage omitted]

To come back to the matter of visits abroad, much is said about the government's regional policy. I wish to point

out that this policy is useful, both for the Slovak Government and the Czech Government, but the Slovak side and our points of view set out in the VPN documents are sometimes called into question.

So, fellow citizens, I wish you a pleasant evening, and I hope for all of us that the week during which I will be abroad will be very useful for all of us. Thank you.

Slovak Council of VPN Issues Statement

LD1003221591 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1900 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] The Slovak Council of the Public Against Violence [VPN] today issued a resolution that was adopted at its Saturday meeting. It says, among other things, that 14 members left its ranks, among them Vladimir Meciar and Milan Knazko. According to the claim of the Slovak Council of the VPN, a group that has been named Platform for Democratic Slovakia is behaving in a way that leads to a split in the movement. The departure of Vladimir Meciar and other delegates of the Slovak Council of the VPN caused a break in the political representation of Slovakia in the Federal Assembly, in the Slovak National Council, and in the Slovak Government. In this way it jeopardizes the adoption of the land law, the law on the property of municipalities, and the prepared publishing of the results of the legislative commission investigating the events of 17 November 1989.

The Slovak Council of VPN in its declaration appealed to all members of the VPN movements to respect the legitimacy of elected bodies and support their cohesion. It also expressed its support for the bill on referendum that will show the desire of the population of the Slovak and Czech Republics to live in a joint state.

Dubcek Expresses Support for Meciar

LD1003235191 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 2030 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Federal Assembly Chairman Alexander Dubcek, in an interview with a reporter from CTK, described the situation in the Public Against Violence [VPN] as only a manifestation of what was signaled in the past by disagreements between the Coordination Center and Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar. He said that he supports Meciar in his position and will continue to support him in the office of the Slovak prime minister, because it is in the interest of Slovakia and of Czechoslovakia.

Regarding the members of deputy clubs in the Slovak National Council and in the Federal Assembly, Alexander Dubcek wants to remain independent. In the interview, he also mentioned the drafting of the three constitutions. He spoke about the preparation of the working version, the parts of which were presented in the recent speech of President Havel. This has to be taken a working material that has still not been formulated in its final version. It is also still not agreed upon by political movements and parties that are represented in the Federal Assembly. This should not be viewed only as an affair of the parties and movements represented in the legislature, because the constitution is an affair of all people.

Meciar Seen as Indispensable in Current Situation

AU1103085591 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 6 Mar 91 p 3

[Igor Cibula commentary: "Slovakia's Fate Comes First"]

[Text] In connection with the Public Against Violence [VPN] movement's internal crisis, its coalition partner, the Christian Democratic Movement [KDH] publicly presented its opinion through Ivan Carnogusrky, Slovak National Council first deputy chairman, who said that "in no decent democracy could the prime minister remain in his post under such circumstances and after so many conflicts." This was a certain signal to the VPN Slovak Council members who yesterday dealt with the problem of how to solve the conflicting situation between Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar and the leadership of the movement. The opinion that VPN internal antagonism is most useful to KDH strategic interests has thereby been confirmed.

The Christian Democrats have thus indirectly expressed their lack of confidence in the prime minister, which is not surprising if we recall the dispute about Interior Minister Anton Andras and other controversies. Maybe KDH Chairman Jan Carnogursky's mistrust of the prime minister as a former communist of the Dubcek era also plays a role. No less important is the fact that the KDH politicians consider Meciar's popularity to be a non-negligible obstacle to their ambitions to come in first in future legislative elections in Slovakia.

The Democratic Party's support for Meciar is understandable, because its policy statement is closer to Meciar's interpretation of the VPN program than to the orientation of other politicians of this movement. Apart from this, the currently expressed positive standpoint of the democrats on the prime minister's emphasis of the national overtones of government policy is also linked with the fact that, according to recent polls, a majority of citizens sympathize with the Slovak Government prime minister.

It is important for Vladimir Meciar's political future that representatives of the Slovak trade unions take his side. In his ability to perceive the problems linked with the negative impact of radical economic reform, they see guarantees for government's ability to soften the drastic intervention in citizens' standard of living. This confidence could provide scope for concluding an agreement on social peace, or on certain restraint - as the case may

be—as far as the claims connected with compensation for the reduction in real incomes of the working people are concerned.

In the current situation, the most important matter is not Vladimir Meciar's fate as a Slovak prime minister, but to retain internal political stability in Slovakia, which is concentrating its efforts on the completion of the process of constituting Slovak statehood as a fundamental prerequisite for successful economic reform. It is necessary to ponder calmly whether it is possible to get rid of Meciar without a risk of exposing society to even more complications and tensions.

SNS Supports Sovereignty Declaration

LD1003222391 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1730 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Summary] The Slovak National Party [SNS] held a meeting in Bratislava today. Some 7,000-8,000 people took part in the meeting. The meeting was organized by the Bratislava organizations of the SNS who were asked for the meeting by its supporters.

"The aim of the meeting was to support the Declaration on the Sovereignty of Slovakia. A moderator explained at the beginning why the SNS has not organized a meeting for some time. The reason was that they were abused by the extreme super-radical elements who were creating a stormy atmosphere at the meetings." Such elements did not appear at today's meeting.

"The moderator went on to speak about the internal political situation, the situation in the Public Against Violence [VPN], and the drafting of the constitutions. He said that the SNS itself is introducing its own draft constitution of the Slovak Republic."

The first speaker on the rostrum was Mr. Pavel Carnogursky, former deputy to the Slovak legislature, who in his speech described the history of the Slovak state as showing a connection with the current demands for the sovereignty of Slovakia. He emphasized that Europe can be firm and united only if every state is sovereign and is on the same level.

Those present were also greeted by Jozef Prokes, deputy to the Slovak National Council for the SNS. He said that the past, if used as an argument, throws more doubt on the federation than confirms it. "The real arguments, however, lie not behind us but in front of us, in our future. Only a free nation can develop. Slovaks were never aggressive, they were never a threat to other nations. It is not part of their national character."

Foreign Minister Postpones Visit To Romania

LD0803175791 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1500 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Statement by Foreign Ministry Spokesman Janos Hermann; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] ESTI HIRLAP published today that [Foreign Minister] Geza Jeszenszky has cancelled his visit to Bucharest. As this is the opposite of what foreign affairs spokesman Janos Hermann said on Monday, I asked him his opinion about the published article, and also if Geza Jeszenszky will travel to Bucharest or not.

[Hermann] In Madrid, [Romanian Foreign Minister] Adrian Nastase made preliminary inquiries as to whether the Hungarian foreign minister would be able to accept an invitation from Bucharest. We, on behalf of the Hungarian party, did not refuse to consider this. In Budapest, on 25 February, Nastase more concretely confirmed the invitation, and he was again given a favorable answer. On 26 February, the Romanian ambassador to Budapest phoned the Hungarian foreign minister and proposed that the visit take place on 18 March.

Following this, the official Hungarian reply was sent to the Romanian ambassador to Budapest on 6 March, when the head of department of the Foreign Ministry asked him to convey a message to Nastase saying that the Hungarian foreign minister would be unable to meet the Romanian invitation in March due to his busy schedule. At the same time, our department head also said that the Hungarian foreign minister hopes that an agreement can be made about the time of the visit in the near future, providing the atmosphere between the two countries becomes more favorable.

Visit Depends on Romanian 'Mood'

LD0903091591 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0700 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] [Foreign Minister] Geza Jeszenszky is dependent on Romanian public mood regarding 15 March [celebrations] as to when he will travel to Bucharest. This has been reported in MAGYAR HIRLAP. As it may be recalled, yesterday the foreign minister confirmed that, in contrast to rumors, he had not canceled his visit, but because of his increasingly crowded schedule he was forced to postpone it to a later stage.

Political State Secretary Geza Entz told MAGYAR hIRLAP it was not likely that the Hungarian Government will officially be represented at the 15 March commemorations in Transylvania. The state secretary confirmed that it was a sensitive point in bilateral relations.

Defense Minister Returns From UK, Belgium Visit

LD0903181691 Budapest MTI in English 1707 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Budapest, March 9 (MTI)—Hungary does not wish to be a member of NATO, and neither side has intentions of this kind. However, Hungary does strive for close relations with the NATO member countries in all areas, including the military one, said Hungarian Minister of Defence Lajos Fur.

Fur, who paid a four-day official visit to Great Britain, and then visited Brussels, returned to Budapest on Saturday, and briefed journalists after his arrival.

The minister termed his visit to Great Britain as one of particular importance, as this was the first visit of such a high-ranking delegation. Fur said he was present at the exhumation of Lazar Meszaros, the minister of defence of the first responsible Hungarian Government, and at the airport when the remains were flown back to Hungary. The minister said the British military organs saw to the entire proceedings with great care and dignity.

With respect to his talks, Fur said a two-year British-Hungarian military exchange programme was approved during his visit. The programme includes a visit of the British secretary of state for defence to Hungary.

The Hungarian delegation held talks with representatives of the British Aerospace company about cooperation with Hungarian industrial branches of a similar nature. British Aerospace will shortly send a delegation to Hungary to review the possibilities. Similar talks were held with representatives of the General Electric Company, who were interested in participating in the production of components in Hungary.

In Brussels, the Belgian minister of defence Guy Coeme received Minister Fur, and talks were held on developing bilateral military relations. The sides also confirmed a cooperation agreement concluded in 1989.

Answering questions of journalists, Fur said he did not hold talks about the purchasing of weapons in either country, and the issue was not raised at all. His hosts evaluated the symbolic Hungarian role in the Gulf war in a positive manner, and their position was that Europe should find cooperation with the Arab world.

Views Talks on European Future

LD0903214191 Budapest MTV Television Network in Hungarian 1830 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Lajos Fur by unidentified reporter; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Defense Minister Lajos Fur has held talks with the leaders of British and Belgian military politicians about the future of Europe.

[Reporter] How do they imagine the new European security system in England and Belgium that will emerge after the dismantling of the Warsaw Pact?

[Fur] They have more or less the same concept; however, Great Britain places more emphasis on the role of the NATO than does Belgium, which it will have to fulfill in the European security system. Both countries, however, stressed

that NATO, the Atlantic idea in general, has to play an important role in the creation of a European security system. Of course, other European organizations will have to be given an appropriate place, too, for instance the West European Union, the European Community, the European Parliament, and not least the CSCE, which has emerged, or is emerging, as a continuation of the Helsinki process. The CSCE could be the most wide-ranging organization of a trans-European security system; it can cover most of the countries of Europe. Which one will have what kind of a role? In my view, time will decide that.

President Goncz Welcomes Privatization Package

LD0803154291 Budapest MTI in English 1132 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Budapest, March 8 (MTI)—Arpad Goncz, president of the Republic of Hungary, met Director-Generals Jean-Francois Dehocq of the French Sanofi firm and Istvan Bihari of the Hungarian Chinoin Company on the occasion of the association agreement signed between the two firms on Thursday.

As a result of what has been described as the biggest deal of the privatization process in Hungary so far, Chinoin may powerfully increase its export capacities and gain a foothold on new markets.

The president spoke of the significance and achievements of Hungary's research capacities, and urged the businessmen to exploit the Hungarian think-tank, to the full in the course of cooperation.

Goncz expressed the hope that the joint venture would soon come forward with new pharmaceutical products that would acquire a good reputation in foreign markets.

Economics Minister Addresses MDF Meeting

LD0903190191 Budapest MTI in English 1710 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Budapest, March 9 (MTI)—A two-day national economic conference of the Hungarian Democratic Forum (HDF) [MDF] began in Miskolc on Saturday.

Balazs Horvath, the acting vice-president of the HDF, opened the conference. He said the two-day, significant economic policy forum aims at drawing a clear picture about Hungarian economy, and determining its progressive points.

Horvath said the government had made two mistakes. On the one hand, it did not establish an appropriate relation with the press, radio and television. Thus the media was unable to provide an exact picture about the changes taking place in politics and economy, and the aims of these. The other error, according to Horvath, was that several economic policy conceptions and ideas clashed, and thus eliminated each other.

Minister of Finance Mihaly Kupa also addressed the conference. He gave a comprehensive report about the current state of Hungarian economy, and noted that the conditions necessary for the change in economic system and the creation of market economy should be established in the course of the year and in 1992. This is also important so the world can see that the change in the political system is being followed by the one in the economic system.

A working market economy should be set up by 1993-94, one that is accepted by all society. Kupa set 1996 as the earliest date for Hungary to be able to become a member of the European Economic Communities. In spite of the inflation rate, the structural problems of economy, and the devaluation of human values, the number of enterprises is rapidly increasing. Only a part of large-scale industry has been able to stay afloat. Although its degree is still not sufficient, the foreign working capital invested in Hungary is the equivalent to that invested in all the other former East European socialist countries, the minister of finance said.

FKgP's Torgyan: Nation on 'Brink of Collapse'

LD0903185791 Budapest MTI in English 1713 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Budapest, March 9 (MTI)—Jozsef Torgyan, leader of the parliamentary group of the Independent Smallholders' Party [FKgP] that is a member of the government coalition, detailed his individual programme for remedying the problems of Hungarian society and economy, at a rally held on Saturday.

According to Torgyan, Hungary is at the brink of collapse. The country's state apparatus, social relations and economy are alike characterized by chaos. There should be no more delays in returning land, as further delays could lead to a catastrophe, he said. Settling the land issue is all the more pressing as the deteriorated Hungarian industry is unsuited to overcome the problems, only agriculture can accept this role.

Torgyan said it is impossible to meet the capital and interest repayment obligations of the foreign debt scheduled for the next three years. However, this does not mean repayment should be refused, but the Government is showing "criminal carelessness" when it does not even try to win better debtor positions. Similar omission was committed in exploring the soviet market opportunities, he said.

Torgyan proposed, among others, to set a deadline for settling the country's most pressing problems and, if need be, to authorize a provisional expert government to see to these, instead of the current Government uncapable of operation.

SZDSZ Official Criticizes Foreign Policy

LD0803220491 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1700 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Peter Marvanyi report from the Aliance of Free Democrats' news briefing; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] The Alliance of Free Democrats [SZDSZ] believe there is no hope that an appropriate compensation law can be created.

[Marvanyi] [passage omitted] Ivan Peto called on the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF] to dissociate itself from the fascist (?book) entitled "Fate of the Gendarme" published by the Forum Organization in Miskolc. Furthermore, he suggested that the MDF itself should start legal action against this anticonstitutional publication. Istvan Szent-Ivanyi said that the Liberal International, at its session in Stockholm, accepted the SZDSZ as a member of the organization. SZDSZ is the first Eastern European party to be accepted. The Campeanu-led Romanian National Liberal Party was also accepted as an observer, with the support of the SZDSZ. Istvan Szent-Ivanyi, secretary of the National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee, said in answer to questions that he would raise the issue again that the Hungarian National Assembly should open offices in the Baltic countries, as several former socialist countries have already done. He stated that the weakest point of the current Hungarian Government's foreign policy was regional politics, the issue of relations with neighboring countries. Provocative steps, and the parading of symbols for self-serving purposes should be avoided. Hungary's road to national minorities leads through Europe, said Istvan Szent-Ivanyi, pointing out that this refers to Hungarians living outside the borders as well as to minorities in Hungary.

Foreign Ministry Official on Diplomatic Activities

LD0403150891 Budapest MTI in English 1337 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Text] Budapest, March 4 (MTI)—Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky is to leave for Bulgaria on March 7 to hold negotiations with his counterpart on ways of galvanising bilateral relations into action. The foreign ministers are to lay the groundwork for the meeting of the two presidents scheduled for this spring, and survey the possibility of renegotiating the former inter-state and intergovernmental agreements and giving a new framework to relations. The Hungarian Government is soon to issue a statement on placing its relations with Bulgaria on a new footing, Janos Hermann, Foreign Ministry spokesman, told the press on Monday.

Frans Andriessen, deputy president of the Commission of the European Communities, is to leave Warsaw for Budapest for a brief working visit on the evening of March 7. Andriessen is to hold talks with the Hungarian prime minster and the ministers of foreign affairs, foreign economic relations and finance on the soonest possible conclusion of an association agreement between Hungary and the EC. According to preliminary information, Frans Andriessen will inform the Polish, Hungarian and Czechoslovak leaders that the EC leadership is constantly paying special attention to the transformations in Eastern Europe.

The Foreign Ministry has surveyed Hungarian-Japanese relations and come to the conclusion that Japan is a partner of strategic importance for Hungary, Herman said. The ministry established that regular high-level consultations would be required to develop cooperation. Hermann said that Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto would soon come to Budapest, Emperor Akihito had an official invitation to visit Budapest, and Jozsef Antall, prime minister, Gyorgy Szabad, speaker of parliament, and Geza Jeszenszky, foreign minister, were to visit Japan in the months to come. The two countries are holding talks on an investment protection agreement, the easing of visa regulations, an air agreement, and the establishment of a Japanese technical, scientific and educational centre in Budapest.

The no-visa agreement between Hungary and Greece is to take effect from March 19. This will be the 28th agreement of the kind concluded by Hungary.

With the end of the Gulf war, the Hungarian Government seeks good relations with all the countries in the region. Hungary has not broken off diplomatic relations with Iraq. After the internal situation has been stabilized, Hungary seeks to take part in Iraq's reconstruction. Meanwhile in Kuwait, several senior businessmen have indicated their intention of coming to Hungary. The establishment of diplomatic relations between Hungary and Saudi Arabia is on the agenda. The Saudi foreign minister is soon to visit Hungary, and senior Hungarian economic officials are to visit Saudi Arabia, Herman said.

In reply to a question, the spokesman reaffirmed that Geza Jeszenszky would be holding a foreign ministerial meeting in bucharest. The visit is most likely take place after March, the spokesman said.

The forthcoming visit to Budapest of Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Kvitsinskiy will be a new, and hopefuly final, stage in the expert talks on a new comprehensive agreement regulating relations between Hungary and the Soviet Union. Then the Hungarian Government delegation may leave for Moscow, Hermann said.

EC Commission Official Pays Visit, Meets Antall

LD0803222291 Budapest MTI in English 1849 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Budapest, March 8 (MTI)—On the occasion of his mission to a number of countries in Central and Eastern Europe, Frans Andriessen, vice-president of the EC Commission, visited the Republic of Hungary on March 7 and 8. He met Jozsef Antall, prime minister, Geza Jeszenszky, minister of foreign affairs, Bela Kadar, minister of international economic relations, Mihaly Kupa, minister of finance, and Ferenc Madl, minister without portfolio.

Andriessen expressed to Antall the Community's friendship and solidarity with Hungary.

During the course of their conversations, the two parties discussed the transformation of the Hungarian economic system into a market economy. They also examined international questions of mutual interest, affecting the future of Europe, the political and economic situation in Hungary,

and priorities for co-ordinated assistance from the Community and the Group of 24 to Hungary in 1991 and 1992.

Andriessen, as co-ordinator of this assistance, noted with satisfaction the pace with which joint projects contributing to economic reconstruction are being implemented in Hungary.

In the course of his meetings, Andriessen expressed the community's willingness to strengthen co-operation with Hungary, and to actively pursue the negotiations for a Europe agreement establishing a relationship of association. The basic object of this agreement is to ensure an appropriate framework for Hungary's progressive approach towards the Community.

The talks took place in an atmosphere of mutual confidence, which gives every reason to look forward to fruitful negotiations, the next round of which will be held in Brussels on March 25-26.

During the final event of Andriessen's two-day visit to Budapest, the minutes of two agreements were signed. Accordingly, the EC will grant Hungary support to the tune of ECU [European Currency Units] 1.3 million for updating its foreign trade infrastructure, and ECU 3 million for developing local communities as part of the PHARE (Poland and Hungary: Assistance for the Restructuring of the Economy) [Economic Restructuring Aid for Poland and Hungary] Scheme.

The documents were signed by Andriessen and Bela Kadar, Hungarian minister for international economic relations, at the EC's Budapest office on March 8. Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky was also present.

Speaking to journalists after the talks, Andriessen said that EC-Hungarian negotiations over the association agreement may still in all likelihood come to a successful conclusion before the year is out. On the other hand, there are several problems awaiting a solution, such as the adaptation of Hungary's agricultural exports to EC regulations, the placing of Hungarian industrial textile and steel exports within the EC market, or the type of relationship between Hungary and the EC during the transition period until the free trade agreement has been concluded. Whether the association agreement will actually specify the ultimate Hungarian aim, namely the granting of full membership status also remains to be seen.

Bela Kadar pointed out that this year the EC members accounted for over 40 per cent of Hungary's trade turnover, up from 35 per cent in 1990, with the figure expected to reach 50 per cent in 1993. (it ranged between 13 and 5 per cent until 1985-86.)

Answering a question, Andriessen firmly denied the allegation that Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary are being treated as the same, namely members of the same bloc with regard to their application for an associate status.

Bishop Tokes on Visit to Australia, Sub-Carpathia

AU0803181591 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 6 Mar 91 p 6

[Interview with Presbyterian Bishop Laszlo Tokes by Adam Balazs in Uzhgorod; date not given: "Interview With Laszlo Tokes"; first paragraph is NEPSZABADSAG introduction]

[Excerpts] Laszlo Tokes participated as a guest of honor in the ecumenical service held in the Avantgard Stadium in Uzhgorod in Sub-Carpathia. We asked him about his recent visit in Australia and his most recent experience in Sub-Carpathia.

[Balazs] What prompted your visit to Australia and what experience did you gain in this distant continent?

[Tokes] I participated in a church conference there, and I also accepted the invitation of the Federation of Australian Hungarians. I lectured and held sermons in every major Hungarian center, like Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, and Adelaide. I have very good impressions of the Hungarians in Australia. [passage omitted]

[Balazs] How could the Hungarians in the West help the Hungarians in Romania?

[Tokes] The Hungarians in the West, including the Hungarians in Australia, sent a lot of aid to Transylvania. I thanked them for it, but I also explained to them that their cooperation and their creation of a united Hungarian lobby to authentically inform the Australian Government would be much more valuable than a few thousand dollars. The Australian foreign minister received me, and I also visited the Federal Parliament. The goodwill of the Australian Government is very important for us, and it should also be informed at the meeting of the 24 when they debate on Romania. I am convinced that the Democratic Association of Hungarians in Romania [RMDSZ] is the only legitimate representative of the Hungarians in Romania. [passage omitted]

[Balazs] A huge mass of people gathered to see you in Beregovo and old people were crying and kissing your hand....

[Tokes] Indeed, my visit to Sub-Carpathia was unique and I myself was fighting the tears. This is so perhaps because the Hungarians in Sub-Carpathia were the most isolated ones in the past decades. They were almost regarded as non-existent. [passage omitted]

Sejm Rejects Presidential Draft on Senate

LD0903124691 Warsaw PAP in English 1212 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Warsaw, March 9—With 347 votes for, 6 against and 28 abstentions the Sejm decided to send the presidential draft election law to the Constitutional Committee.

The Sejm rejected the presidential draft law on amendments to the Constitution according to which the Senate could continue its term despite the forthcoming dissolution of the Sejm.

Sejm Votes on Dissolution, New Elections

LD0903212391 Warsaw PAP in English 1937 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Warsaw, March 9—After a three-day debate on elections the Sejm (lower house) today adopted with 314 votes for, 18 against and 40 abstentions a resolution, proposed by the enlarged Sejm presidium, to dissolve itself in the autumn of 1991 and end its term of office on the eve of new parliamentary elections which should be announced by the president not later than by October 30. Simultaneously with the dissolution of the Sejm, the the Senate is to end its term of office, too. The Sejm resolution stresses that the dissolution should take place after the new election law becomes effective.

Thus the Sejm rejected the draft election law tabled by President Lech Walesa proposing immediate diossolution of the Sejm and new elections on May 26, as well as his draft amendments to the Constitution suggesting that the Senate's term be not shortened. The view prevailed that the composition of the Senate was also a result of the round-table contract and had to be put to a test in democratic elections.

The Sejm also rejected the OKP Citizens' Parliamentary Club's motion to oblige the Sejm constitutional committee to prepare a draft election law within a period of time making it possible to hold the elections on May 26.

After the election debate the Sejm began to examine vital draft laws on companies formed with foreign partners and on foreign representation offices. The drafts are intended to create conditions for foreign investors in Poland comparable to those in other countries, namely the possibility to transfer all profits abroad and no need to obtain permits from the foreign investment agency to establish a company and tax reliefs depending on the amount of capital invested. The bills were forwarded for examination to Sejm committees.

Before the Sejm closed its three-day debate in the evening Sejm Speaker Mikolaj Kozakiewicz had announced that a list of problems was being compiled which the Sejm ought to examine before April.

The next meeting of the Sejm is to be held in two weeks.

Committees Meet on Election Decision

LD1003205391 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1800 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Andrzej Jelenski report]

[Text] The National Conference of Citizens' Committee, deliberating for several hours today in the Sejm's Hall of Columns, was, for all intents and purposes, devoted to one subject: the parliamentary elections. This was influenced by the Sejm decision yesterday to shift the elections to the autumn. Poland's political situation was discussed by Zdzislaw Najder, who heads the National Citizens' Committee. He stressed that the Sejm deputies of the 10th term have shown that those who ruled for 40 years, up until this current mandate of office, continue to retain part of their power, this time in the majesty of law. In this situation, the Solidarity camp must specify itself anew as an independence movement, not just an anti-communist one. Currently, emphasis must be placed on reconstructing citizens' initiatives on the basis of the Citizens' Committees and the Independent Self-Governing Trade Union Solidarity. After all, no one is going to put Poland in order for us.

Speaking at the conference, Center Accord Leader Senator Jaroslaw Kaczynski said that there is currently no political unity in Solidarity. He proposed the creation and appointment of a Citizens' Committee for Free Elections that will be able to guarantee the assembly of an electoral alliance and assist in carrying through fully free parliamentary elections, bringing Poland toward democracy and full independence. During the Conference of Citizens' Committees meeting, disgust was expressed at the deputies' decision on shifting the date of the parliamentary elections to the autumn. In the resolution passed, support was expressed for the Committee for Free Elections.

In other accpeted resolutions, the shifting of the parliamentary elections was criticized. In light of the accord of the post-communist bloc with the Democratic Union, we read in the resolution, the process of reforms and the construction of democracy stand questioned, and the road to Europe is made longer. The Citizens' Committees, as the electoral committees of some of the members of Parliament from [word indistinct] Solidarity, are in favor of the presidential draft that was rejected in the Sejm, which is supported by the Citizens' Parliamentary Floor Group, and give the other deputies a vote of no confidence and demand that they resign their deputies' mandates. In the statement it was stressed that: The result of the 9 March vote was an act of infamy, and, on the part of the deputies from outside the Citizens' Parliamentary Floor Group and the Parliamentary Club of the Democratic Union, this is a betrayal of the interests of the nation; deputies, you were to represent the nation, and you have put comfortable sinecures over the good of the fatherland. An appeal was issued to the Sejm for it to bring about self-dissolution. It was also

protested that offensive remarks addressed to the president of the Republic, chosen in free elections, should not be made in the chamber.

The next Citizens' Committees conference is planned for 14 April.

Kaczynski Advises Walesa To Dissolve Parliament

LD1103095991 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 0600 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] GAZETA WYBORCZA reports that Jaroslaw Kaczynki [chairman of Center Accord], following the decision by the Sejm [on 9 March], advised President Lech Walesa to react resolutely, including considering dissolution of the Sejm. According to Kaczynski, the president did not accept that proposal and decided to react differently.

Peasants, SP Form Electoral Coalition

LD0803225191 Warsaw PAP in English 2159 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Warsaw, March 8—Leaders of the Christian Democratic Labour Party [SP] stated today that an electoral coalition of peasant and christian democratic organizations proposed by Chairman of the Polish Peasant Party Roman Bartoszcze is imperative and declared their participation in it.

Henryk Bak's Peasant Party which turns back to the post-war Mikolajczyk tradition wants to enter into an electoral coalition with the Polish Peasant Party "Solidarity" and the Private Farmers' Solidarity, the party leader told newsmen today. He added that other political groups of similar orientation, for instance citizens committees, might join the coalition too.

Also local chapters of the Polish Peasant Party (led by Henryk Bak), the Polish Catholic Social Union, the Christian Democratic Labour Party, and the Christian Democratic Party "Unification" (Zjednoczenie) from the central city of Lodz proposed the formation of an electoral coalition of christian democracy.

Center Accord Elects Officials, Criticizes Sejm

LD0903214791 Warsaw PAP in English 2045 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Warsaw, March 9—The main political council of the Centre Alliance at its first meeting here today elected Jacek Maziarski chairman of the alliance's main board. Przemyslaw Hniedziewicz, Marcin Przybylowicz and Adam Glapinski were elected deputy chairmen of the main political council which is the party's supreme organ between the congresses.

Also elected was the 20-strong main board which in accordance with the party's statute is its chief executive body.

The council, whose debates were chaired by the leader of the Centre Alliance, Senator Jaroslaw Kaczynski, adopted a resolution presenting its stand on the Sejm's latest decision to put off parliamentary elections until the autumn.

The resolution stresses that "despite the president's dramatic appeal the contractual majority in the Sejm and those who supported it, ignoring the nation's opinion, have prevented the dissolution of the Parliament and the announcement of the first democratic elections for May 26."

The resolution charges that the Sejm missed an opportunity and so finally lost its credibility. "Poland cannot be the last country in Europe, which has not had democratic elections yet. The Centre Alliance will be organizing the public to struggle for a democratically elected parliament," the resolution said.

Commenting on the Sejm's decision on parliamentary elections the newly elected chairman said that in fact it meant a beginning of the election campaign regardless of the actual date of elections and of the Sejm's dissolution. "People are beginning to look for their place on the political scene, they are coming and joining our party. This is going to be a period of the party's growth and we must use it properly," said he.

'Several Thousand' Farmers March on Sejm Offices

LD0803143791 Warsaw PAP in English 1239 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Warsaw, March 8—Several thousand farmers from all over Poland have marched to the Sejm building, offices of the Council of Ministers and the Belweder Palace to convey to the authorities a resolution of farmers' organizations which calls for changes in the government's economic programme, higher pays of farm workers and better conditions for farm production.

Protest Agriculture Policy

LD0803222591 Warsaw PAP in English 2138 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Warsaw, March 8—Several thousand farmers staged a demonstration here today in protest against the agricultural policy pursued by the government. They demanded guaranteed minimum procurement prices for farming produce, the abolition of the excess wage tax, and control over imports of cheaper food from the West. There were also demands voiced for the resignation of Vice-Prime Minister Leszek Balcerowicz.

The farmers handed Sejm (Lower House) and Senate speakers Mikolaj Kozakiewicz and Andrzej Stelmachowski respectively a resolution adopted by the Chief Council of the Union of Farmers, farmers' circles and organizations on Thursday postulating changes in the

economic programme with a view to stimulating demand for food and the improvement of the conditions of farming production.

Mikolaj Kozakiewicz told the demonstrators that talks with farmers' representatives will be continued to find solutions to problems in the agriculture. He appealed for seeking solutions without aggravating social tension.

The demonstrators delivered their resolution also to the office of the Council of Ministers where they learnt that the prime minister will meet their delegation this evening.

The resolution was also delivered to the Belweder Palace (the president's Warsaw seat). Presidential officials assured the farmers that Lech Walesa will meet their representatives at a settled date.

Agriculture Minister Meets Protesters

LD0803205191 Warsaw PAP in English 1951 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Warsaw, March 8—Minister of Agriculture and Food Economy Adam Tanski this afternoon met with a delegation of farmers who staged a demonstration in Warsaw this morning for talks on possible ways of preventing the excessive rise of prices for means of production and ensuring the profitability of agricultural production in the conditions of market economy and the still monopolized surroundings of agriculture.

The farmers' main postulates concerned the introduction of the lowest guaranteed procurement prices for basic agricultural produce and the adoption of customs barriers to imports of highly subsidized food from the West.

Tanski said the state budget did not envisage means to secure the lowest prices proposed by farmers but there were sums assigned to the state interventionism, including the purchase of surpluses of cereals, meat and butter to keep procurement prices on a decent level.

The government is working on a more effective protection of Polish agriculture against unfair foreign competition but the measures must be compatible with international regulations to prevent restrictions on Polish agricultural and food exports by other countries. The 1990 statistics shows that Poland is a net food exporter.

Meanwhile, a delegation of protesting farmers invited to a meeting of the Sejm (Lower House) Committee for Agriculture and Food Economy presented their problems to the Committee.

The Committee decided to adopt its stand on the current situation in agriculture in a special statement, to be made during the Sejm plenary debates tomorrow.

Bielecki Views Meeting With Farmers

LD0903123191 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 0600 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Statement by Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Three issues were discussed during a more than three-hour-long talk yesterday between Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki and representatives of farming circles. These were: minimum prices, a social fund for the countryside, and restructuring of agriculture. Following the talks, the prime minister said:

[Bielecki] Above all, there are no simple solutions. Furthermore, as I tried to explain here, in seeking something that (?may be called) the Polish road in the case of agriculture, we must seek paths to the modernization of agriculture. Because we cannot stabilize the existing system, the government cannot give guarantees that everything that existed in the past will also be profitable in the future. Additional resources have, therefore, been allocated to aid the process of the restructuring of agriculture; furthermore, we have issued an invitation to the joint creation of, as someone called it, a set of rules on ways of making use of these resources. Thus, our expectation that this organization, which for us will above all be the self-management of producers, will also show considerable initiative in the sphere of economic initiatives, building up the meager infrastructure of the countryside. [as heard] If it is a question of so-called minumum prices as a kind of slogan, however, then we must clearly state that a minimum price cannot be a price that replaces the market price, or give a guarantee of the profitability of production, because would then we go over to a command system. We can speak of certain price information, of certain price forecasts, that would be the result of the intervention of an agricultural market agency, functioning as a stabilizer in the agricultural market.

State Farmers Suspend Planned 'Sit-In Strike'

LD0903104191 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1000 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Zielona Gora report]

[Text] The Presidium of the National Strike Committee of State Farm Employees has, since the early morning hours, been deliberating at Rzepin in Gorzow province. We will broadcast the full text of its statement in the evening edition of the "Home and Abroad" program.

After examining proposals resulting from talks at the Agriculture Ministry on 7 March, the Presidium decided to suspend the sit-in strike. It has been decided to introduce strike readiness in those enterprises which took part in the sit-in strike, until such time as it [strike readiness] is called off. The next round of talks at the Agriculture Ministry is to take place in the first 10 days of April.

Citizen's Committee Official Criticizes Solidarity

LD1003152291 Warsaw PAP in English 1312 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Warsaw, March 10—Zdzislaw Najder, chairman of the National Citizen's Committee, today accused members of Parliament elected under the "round table" contract of holding on to power and failing to listen to the nation's will.

The Sejm (parliament), in which 65 per cent of deputies are ex-communists or their allies, yesterday rejected the president's proposal for holding free parliamentary elections in May and resolved to dissolve itself in Autumn.

Najder, who was addressing a conference of citizens' committees which began in Warsaw this morning, appealed to the Solidarity camp to define itself as an independence camp.

Senator Jaroslaw Kczysnki accused some of the MPs recommended to their seats by Solidarity two years ago of forming an alliance with defenders of the old system and appealed for an election alliance that would reunite all the Solidarity forces. The conference is to determine the nature of alliances and strategy of the citizen's movement in Parliament elections.

New Pro-Walesa Political Party Formed

AU0803164991 Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 6 Mar 91 p 1

['par' -signed report: "Walesa Supporters Have Formed a New Political Party"]

[Text] A new political party was registered at the Warsaw Voivodship Court on Tuesday, 5 March. It bears the rather complicated name "Victoria—United Election Staffs of Lech Walesa."

The idea of creating this group was born among members of Lech Walesa's Election Committee in Krakow. The founders describe themselves as follows: "We are a group that has strongly supported Lech Walesa from the very beginning. We believe such support is still necessary. We think Lech Walesa's decisions are generally correct."

The Lech Walesa Election Committees in Kielce and Lodz have already joined the new party, and individual applications to join are coming in from all over the country.

Poll Respondents Support EC Membership

LD0803150491 Warsaw PAP in English 1356 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Warsaw, March 8—Firm majority (88 percent) of those polled by the Public Opinion Polling Centre (CBOS) said they support Poland's strivings for the admission to the EC, three percent were against while eight percent admitted that they do not know what the EC is.

Nearly half (49 percent) of the proponents of the liquidation of the Warsaw Pact were of the opinion that after its dissolution, Poland should be neutral, less than one-third (31 percent) were of the opinion the Poland should form alliances with Western countries, while five percent were for maintaining the alliance with the USSR.

Sixty-nine percent of respondents were for a Europe without borders, 12 percent did not support the idea, five were against it while 14 percent had no opinion on the subject.

Bielecki's FRG Visit Creates 'Climate of Trust'

AU0803171691 Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 6 Mar 91 pp 1,5

[Kazimierz Woycicki commentary: "The Creation of Trust"]

[Text] Until recently, every high-level Polish-German meeting was awaited with expectations that a breakthrough would occur. Now that that breakthrough has occurred, relations between Warsaw and Bonn may be viewed more pragmatically.

Prime Minister Bielecki has a lot of business to take care of with Chancellor Kohl. The most important matter is the reduction of Polish debts. What he manages to achieve in Bonn in this matter may determine the entire election campaign. The importance of the visit will no longer be determined by loud declarations, even though the treaty on good-neighborly relations has yet to be signed, but by practical decisions.

Warsaw's repeated slogan "The road to Europe leads via Germany" is not just an expression of Warsaw's hopes vis-a-vis the new neighbor, but also a form of pressure, pressure to make Bonn state its Eastern policy more clearly, in line with the new historical era that began with the "1989 Autumn of the People." The situation in the Kremlin also dictates a need to examine the traditional priorities of this policy.

Bielecki went to Bonn somewhat fortified by the success of the Visegrad summit. He might say that he is the head of the second independent Polish government, and that Poland has experienced changes in government without any major upheavals, which illustrates the country's political stability.

A climate of trust between Poland and Germany will probably undergo a natural birth if Bonn does not treat Warsaw like a client at a time when the success of the economic reforms in Poland is in the balance. After all, according to the old Polish saying, one recognizes one's friends when one is poor.

FRG Bundestag President Meets Walesa, Press

AU0803134491 Warsaw PAP in English 2214 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Warsaw, March 5—On the second day of her Polish visit, president of the FRG Bundestag Rita Suessmuth was received in the Belweder by Poland's president Lech Walesa.

The conversation which concerned Polish-German relations and transformations underway in Eastern Europe was held in a cordial atmosphere, Lech Walesa's press office reported.

Sucssmuth stressed that Poland was the country where the systemic reforms were most advanced. She also pointed to the issues of ethnic minorities, visas for Poles, Poland's admission to the EC and economic cooperation.

President Walesa stressed that the Europe heading for unity cannot be dominated by issues which delay this process. Suessmuth shared the president's opinion that integrity was needed.

Sejm speaker Mikolaj Kozakiewicz and secretary of state at the Presidential Chancellery Janusz Ziolkowski took part in the meeting.

In the morning, Rita Suessmuth held an hour-long meeting with Vice-Prime Minister Leszek Balcerowicz which focussed on the course of the Polish economic reforms and external and domestic perils threatening the reform programme. A lot of attention was devoted to bilateral economic relations and Poland's external debt, which greatly impedes this country's economic development.

During a meeting with Poland's minister of foreign affairs Krzysztof Skubiszewski, the sides discussed matters pertaining to bilateral relations and pointed out that their new quality is mainly related to the question of a Polish-German treaty, which should be signed as soon as possible. Issues of ethnic minorities, compensations for victims of Nazi crimes, regional cooperation, the withdrawal of Soviet troops from former East Germany and their transit through Poland were also discussed.

The president of the Bundestag met with members of the Sejm Ethnic and National Minorities' Committee. In the discussion, the deputies pointed to the ever more vivid strivings of German minority to autonomy and the concern of the Polish population over manifestations of nationalistic feelings as perceived in the work of the German Cultural Society. The deputies opted for a greater control of the assistance designed for the German minority in Poland by the German Government.

The German side will be striving to solve the problems which are still present in bilateral relations and speaks in favour of the quick signing of a treaty on cooperation and good-neighbourly relations, Suessmuth said. She denied rumours of an alleged, secret Soviet-German agreement concerning the resettlement of Germans living in the Volga region to the Kaliningrad (former Koenigsberg) district.

The president of the Bundestag announced that Germany would lift visas for Poles. The matter of compensations for Polish victims of the war would be solved through foundations. This is the opinion of Chancellor Helmuth Kohl, Suessmuth said.

During her press conference here today, Rita Suessmuth said that her talks with Polish officials were frank and open.

Asked about the pullout of Soviet troops from Germany, Suessmuth said that this issue should not be combined with the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Poland.

In the evening, Rita Suessmuth met with members of the "Europe" Club and delivered a lecture on the role of parliamentary institutions in Europe. She stressed that so far Europe had managed to overcome a political division. If the striking difference in the standard of living is not eliminated, Europeans will be separated from each other by a prosperity wall, Suessmuth said in her speech.

Ministers Receive WEU's Van Eekelen for Talks

LD0803150691 Warsaw PAP in English 1430 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Warsaw, March 8—The visiting general secretary of the Western European Union Willem van Eekelen today met for talks with representatives of the Polish president: Minister of State Jacek Merkel and Secretary of State Janusz Ziolkowski. [sentence as received]

The sides discussed questions connected with arms control, new system of European security and disarmament negotiations in Vienna.

Van Eekelen also met today with chairman of the Sejm Foreign Affairs Committee Bronislaw Geremek who said after the meeting that the Western European Union can strengthen Poland's sense of security after the dismantling of the Warsaw Pact.

Visa Requirements With Soviet Union Canceled

AU1103095291 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 0900 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] The signing of the convention between the Romanian Government and the Government of the Soviet Union on the cancellation of visas took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today. For the Romanian side, the document was signed by Foreign Affairs State Secretary Mr. Romulus Neagu and on behalf of the Soviet Government by Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Yuliy Kvitsinskiy.

The new convention provides for a number of facilities in the field of mutual trips of citizens. Thus, the citizens of each contracting side, who reside in the state whose citizens they are, may enter, transit, and stay on the territory of the other contracting side without any visa on the basis of a valid travel document issued by the authorities of each country. The aforementioned provisions do not apply to those who want to carry out lucrative activities or desire to set up residence in the other country. Private travelers may remain on the territory of the other country up to 90 days with the option of prolonging their stay on the basis of an approval by the relevant authorities.

The convention will come into force 30 days after the date of the exchange of notes whereby the two sides confirm their endorsement of it.

Roman Expects To Regain Moldova From USSR

LD0803201691 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1834 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, Mar 8 (TANJUG)—Romania expects to regain the territory of Moldavia from the Soviet Union, which was taken away from it under a secret agreement between Hitler and Stalin in 1940, Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman told journalists in Santiago at the end of his three-day visit to Chile.

Roman also said he was in favour of the demand for the independence of the Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. He assessed that the present government of the Soviet Union should accept the demands and seek out "adaquate mechanisms" for maintaining close ties with the republics.

Positively assessing the co-existence of the old and new regime in Chile and complimenting the Chilean road to democracy, Roman announced that the (?purpose) of his visit to Santiago is to try and conclude a bilateral agreement on trade exchange, with special stress on strengthening industrial cooperation between Chile and Romania.

Mentions Moldovan Links to Brazilian Paper

AU0903153091 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1124 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 9/3/1991—In an interview granted with the daily "FOLHA DE SAO PAOLO" in Brazil, Romanian prime minister stressed that his government had severed any ties with communism. He also made a point of stressing that the present cabinet members had never been on the party or state hierarchy of the former regime. He opined that most important had been that on December 22, 1989 the political platform of the revolution led to the vanishing of the power of the party apparatus.

With reference to the kind of economic and social organization Romania was oriented to, Roman said that "the Romanian model is much closer to what happened and happens in countries like Spain, Italy, France, even Germany".

In another sequence of ideas, Petre Roman stated he welcomed the termination of the Warsaw Pact.

Asked about his government's position on Moldova, whether it was for unification, Prime Minister Roman answered: "We think this should be settled by the Moldovans. It is clear, they are Romanians like us, but they make up a republic, and history has never favoured rush actions. It is a decision and a process up to the Moldovans themselves, up to the power in Moldova".

In connection with Romania's relations with the Latin-American countries, he assessed that Romania, as a Latin country, might be a bridge between Latin America and its zone of Europe. There is openness in Romania to Latin America, bearing in mind also the common Latin origin, said Roman. My intention is, spiritually and economically speaking, to bring Brazil very close to Europe and especially to Romania.

Rally of Solidarity With Moldova Held in Iasi

AU0903195191 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1921 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 9/3/1991—Solidarity with the Republic of Moldova and the condemnation of the 17 March referendum on the Union Treaty have been the dominant ideas of the meeting held Saturday, 9 March, in the Revolution Square of Bucharest by Bucuresti-Chisinau Cultural Society.

The participants requested the Romanian parliamentarians to meet, in Iasi, the former capital of Moldova, on 27 March, 1991, their colleagues from the Parliament in Chisinau in a joint session, "to keep counsel" on how to do away with the consequences of the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact.

Professor Gavrila Gheorghe Copil, chairman of the society, made a point of saying that, these claims meant no interference of the society in the internal affairs of the

Soviet Union, because both the Republic of Moldova and the Baltic Republics were annexed territories and that these actions by no means aimed at dismembering the Soviet Union. The society's president made it clear that "if Romanians in Bessarabia and Bucovina are arrested, including officials in Chisinau, the society will bring up again the question of "volunteer detachments", and that the referendum could not be held under the threat of guns". Mr. Gavrila Copil brought to public knowledge that, on 27 February, 22 leaders of Romanian political parties and associations met on the initiative of the society and signed a declaration requesting the USSR leadership to call off the referendum in the Republic of Moldova, a country that pronounced against the referendum. He also informed that he himself would start a hunger strike on 13 March 1991 "in protest against the refusal of the Kremlin to give up its conquests resulting from the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact and in support of the idea that the annexation and keeping under occupation by the USSR of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the Republic of Moldova, Northern Bucovina, the Hertza district, the Southern districts of Bessarabia and the Serpent Island defies the whole mankind".

The demonstrators carried banners on which one could read: "No to the 17 March Union Referendum," "17 March 1991—No referendum in the Romanian Territories Beyond the Prut", "Down With the Fascist-Communist Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact", "Greater Romania in its Former Boundaries".

After the meeting, the demonstrators marched to the headquarters of the government, the USSR Embassy in Bucharest, the Romanian Television, where they forwarded the text of a protest adopted at the meeting. On the way, they kept a moment's silence and prayed at the monuments dedicated to the heroes of the Romanian revolution of December 1989 in the University Square and the Romana Square.

PLD on Occupation of Bessarabia, Bukovina

AU1003205691 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 5 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] The Free Democratic Party [PLD] requests that all those who claim to be representatives of Romania protest energetically and take all necessary steps with international forums to prevent the phony referendum prepared by the red imperialists in Moscow in the desire to legitimate the despotic occupation of ancient Romanian lands.

We want to remind all Romanians and all organizations that Transylvania is not the only Romanian soil, but Bessarabia and Bukovina, too; furthermore, it is our sacred duty to defend it and pass it on intact to future generations, because Romania "is not mine nor yours, it belongs to your successors and your successors' successors forever and ever."

President, Nica Leon
Vice president, Paul Tavalica

Rally Marks Anniversary of Timisoara Proclamation

AU1003171291 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1630 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 10/3/1991—Sunday, March 10, the Unirii Square in Timisoara hosted a meeting occasioned by the anniversary of a year since the launching of the Timisoara Proclamation. The meeting was organized by the Timisoara Society and had as invited guests Messrs. P.M.Bacanu, C.Ticu Dumitrescu, Dumitru Iuga and Victor Rebengiuc. In their addresses, both the representatives of the Timisoara Society and the other speakers, the guests included, criticized the power, appreciating that the proclamation had not been taken into consideration.

The several thousands of participants chanted anti-governmental, anti-presidential, anti-parliamentary slogans as well as slogans in favor of regality and of Colonel Oancea, former chief of the County Police, recently removed from that office.

Roman's 'State of the Nation Report' Continues

AU0803173591 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1547 GMT 8 Mar 91

["Part Nine" of "State of the Nation Report" by Prime Minister Petre Roman to Parliament on 26 February]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 8/3/1991—**Changes in the Structure of the National Economy and Technological Renovation**

The new stage that the reform and transition process is about to enter in Romania brings the change of the structure of the national economy in the focus of government policy.

Several stages of the reform proper are distinguishable, namely: a. The reform proper, which implies building a new economic mechanism, economy. It would be essentially wrong to engage in technological renovation without a general strategy for re-structuring the national economy, since it would have entailed the risk of huge investments in sectors or units which may not have been maintained, notwithstanding their renovated technologies, in a future structure set on the principle of inter-sector efficiency.

On the other hand, the reform proper (that of the economic mechanism) is meaningless unless it is accompanied by structural adjustment at one point along the line, and structural adjustment itself must consider the goal of restructuring the national economy.

One of the most difficult problems of the reform is to identify the stages of the general strategy, since the material effort, the social cost and the effects on efficiency differ essentially from one stage to another. In the case of structural adjustment and especially of re-structuring, the effort and its effects are not simultaneous.

Adjustment and eventually re-structuring of the national economy, in contrast with the legal and institutional reform, is the most delicate part of the transition process in our society, since it sums up unpopular aspects of this process: The close-down or partial closure of production units, unemployment, price rises, a widespread sense of insecurity and discomfort. This requires that the government sets its priorities as well as a proper pace. That it shows flexibility and intervenes promptly to make corrections in response to the reasonable reaction of the present socioeconomic structures, finds financial sources, especially abroad, that may correlate the change of economic structures with social security (unemployment benefits, investment in retaining, proper medical care, services for the population etc.). Besides the government must also show firmness, because a delay or slower pace of restructuring should only result in an apparent social stability, as the political and economic mechanism would crumble away, diminishing the chances of success, subjecting the population to a prolonged suffering and squandering opportunities that may arise in a dynamic internal and international economic context.

This explains why the government pursues to introduce such mechanisms and create such structures as are capable to use to advantage the opportunities that may present themselves at a given time, in particular internal and international economic conditions. [sentence as received]

On the aims of restructuring, it should be said that to set them is essential for the whole transition process. We cannot project new structures, hence we cannot shape our economic policy unless we know where we want to get to with those structures. In this context, the government is in the process of detailing out its goals, starting from the idea that the economic strategy should not absolutise any of its goals, no matter how pressing it may be at one time, but consider them in their interrelationship with a possible shift of emphasis from one stage to the other.

On this basis of principle, the aim of cutting down on raw materials consumption and the restoration of the balance of energy as its effect is just one of the aims. It calls for both an adjustment of the industries to the available natural resources, and to increase their efficiency through modern technologies.

Besides this priority, other major aims are a fast pay-off of investments. The manufacture of internationally competitive products as a source of hard-currency earnings (in other words, an export-oriented production), and a fast supply of consumer goods for the home market.

Such aims put a greater stress on the light industry, agriculture, the service industry and the small industry.

The capability of the new structures of the Romanian economy to react to the principle of complementarity in the world economy also appears to us as an essential target, which should be defined in concentric circles, in consideration of our position in the Balkans and the Black Sea area, in Central and Eastern Europe, and in the Mediterranean, in our relationship with the USSR, with the common market, and with the older and newer economic powers in the Pacific.

Altogether ignored in the past, the demand for an economic structure in consonance, harmony and synchrony with the size of our country, with the size, temperament, culture and civilisation of the population must be a cardinal goal along with that of building a system of enterprises that can adjust to market fluctuations. These aims call for an economy relying on a strong network of small and medium-sized enterprises which can also claim the advantages of being more easy to manage and of creating more jobs, thereby redressing the balance on the labour market.

Last but not least is to bring our economic structures into an ecologically balanced system.

In normal conditions, production factors are allocated on the market where advantages are compared and profits considered. Unfortunately, in the absence of competition, we are not in a position yet to have a normal allocation of those factors. That being so, the state, through the government, must become involved in this process by resorting to economic, not administrative- voluntarist, criteria.

It is the government's immediate aim to watch over the structural adjustment, first of all through the right allocation of the new investment factors, then through the re-allocation to the extent this is possible of the investment factors in various sectors where it has control over the shares and finally by supporting the private sector to make the right decisions on the allocation of the factors at its disposal.

In the spirit, the government decided that economic studies be made in all economic units which should use the cost-profit method, and that those studies would be taken into account whenever credits would be given by state-owned banks, as well as in macro and medium-economic policy-making.

The structural adjustment process begins with the knowledge of the economic and financial facts in relevant sectors: Those in which it was heavily invested in the past and those in which a relative advantage in the longer run calls for urgent investment (agriculture, tourism). A like effort, coupled with the normal effects of de-monopolisation and price liberalisation, will show which enterprises, that can actually be low on the list of the timeliness costs of the national economy as well as apparently or really unprofitable enterprises can in effect be or readily become profit-making.

In the meanwhile, another basic government target is to facilitate access to foreign credits, and to make its own list of priorities in investment to support and orient structural adjustment and eventually the restructuring process. For this end, the priorities for which credits are negotiated with the world bank are in this order: Structural adjustment and how to meet its costs; personnel training, especially in management; development of a modern infrastructure (roads, highways, bridges, telecommunications); the development of agriculture; water development and conservancy, and the protection of the environment.

Stanculescu: 'Terrorists' Used Arms in Revolution

AU1103111091 Bucharest TINERETUL LIBER in Romanian 5 Mar 91 pp 1, 2

["Part Two" of interview with Defense Minister Victor Atanasie Stanculescu by Aurel Perva and Gavrila Inoan; place and date not given: "The Terrorists Also Used Weapons Made Abroad"]

[Text] [TINERETUL LIBER] Therefore, Mr. Minister, during the revolution you found a particular type of ammunition used by the terrorists against the armed forces.

[Stanculescu] Yes, as I have already said, I have here two bullets with vidia [grooves]. Our Army does not use this type of ammunition. It is of caliber 5.56. As you can see, the bullet has a jacket that got deformed, while its core remained intact.

[TINERETUL LIBER] If I recall correctly, there were people who denied the existence of this kind of ammunition in general.

[Stanculescu] My feeling is that these bullets resemble the ammunition used by NATO, but how do armaments circulate these days? I am not sure whether you remember South Africa's attempt, some time ago, to interfere in the Seychelles. Romanian weapons—machine guns—were found there. How could that happen? A Somali delegation had visited us some 10 years ago and asked us to send experts to repair some military equipment. We asked them to specify the type of equipment in question so we would know what kind of experts we should send. They gave us the details. Then, we asked them: Where did you get this equipment? "It was a gift from the Egyptians," came the answer. Later we learned all the details of that deal. It was the SR 140 [expansion unknown] and the first guided missile launcher with a range of more than 20 kilometers, which we sold the Egyptians in 1977. So, you see how armaments circulate? This equipment was further sent to the Somali Army, as a gift. So, even if one hands over the weapons to the end user and asks him to specify his position in proper documentation, one loses sight of them from the moment of delivery—that is, one loses control over the circulation of armaments.

We collected some armaments that are not in the supply of the Romanian Army from people caught during the revolution. We have them on film. I intend to show this film at a first meeting with the press. I want very much for you to see this film. One cannot ignore these armaments, because we do not have such equipment. In general, no funds were allocated to us for the import of such weapons from the West.

[TINERETUL LIBER] Are we talking only about Army equipment?

[Stanculescu] Yes, we are talking about the Army. We will give the necessary explanations, showing what kind of armament and what make it is.

[TINERETUL LIBER] Should we infer from this that you believe the claims that foreigners were also involved in the December events?

[Stanculescu] You are journalists and you can write what you want. I am very honest about this: I have to restrain myself, not because I may not be tempted to say that we might have had such foreign elements, but I cannot really point to anyone. I am not sure whether we are doing a service to our present overall relations, that is why I refrained very much from making such comments, particularly because there was the much-discussed version about the Arabs, about the Hungarians, and even about the Yugoslavs, unfortunately.

[TINERETUL LIBER] Mr. Minister, what message would you like to convey to the young people on the occasion of this interview?

[Stanculescu] First, I would like that, subsequent to the freedom we have won, we should speedily find solutions and understand the system of the market economy, to bring well-being to the country and ensure that all people can live better and the young people can have fewer material worries and think more along intellectual lines. Second, I would like to give assurances to the effect that the Army wants to be a link between the young man heading for maturity and the young man who has reached maturity. In this respect, we would like to make sure that the soldier is proud of his specialized field, unit, and posture and proud that he is treated and respected like a man.

Isarescu on Foreign Debts, Currency Regulations

AU0803201691 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1724 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 8/3/1991—A piece of news in an OECD [Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation] publication a couple of days ago that surveyed the state of the East European economies put Romania's alleged foreign indebtedness at 2.3 billion U.S. dollars, Mugur Isarescu, governor of Romania's National Bank told a news conference Friday. "Well," he said, "we do not have that debt, and we must say that we are sorry for not having it we are a country with a low

standard of living which, paradoxically as it may seem, is a creditor nation. If we did have a foreign debt, instead of having lent three billion U.S. dollars (of which some two billion to Iraq) we would have had a different position in the international credit market. Ceausescu's forced repayment of the debt caused us many problems" the governor went on. "We lost position with the major world banks" he added and supplied just one example: The French-Romania Bank which extends large credits to... Poland.

In connection with the alleged debt, the governor said the mistake was due to an office worker who had since apologised, but unfortunately the news had spread around the world.

The drawing up of the currency regulations by Romania's National Bank in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Trade and Tourism entered its final phase, the Governor of Romania's National Bank Mugur Isarescu told an extraordinary news conference on Friday, March 8.

Meant to establish the regime of foreign currency in Romania, the regulations will be initialed by an IMF delegation, expected to come to Romania in the last ten days of the month of March, to back the activity of standardization and make the aforesaid act consistent with international regulations.

"According to these regulations, sales in Romania will be made uniquely in lei. Hard currency stores will be given time to adapt to the new laws. Sales in currencies other than the leu will be discouraged by economic means, and finally forbidden, with the exception of hotel, airport stores, etc," mentioned Mugur Isarescu.

National Bank Receives $300 Million Loan

AU0803201891 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1726 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 8/3/1991—Thursday, March 7, Romania's National Bank received a loan of 300 million U.S. dollars from the Bank of International Settlements and from twelve central banks in the major industrialized countries, the governor of Romania's bank told a news conference on Friday, March 8.

The loan has a special character and operates until IMF starts financing the program recently initiated with Romania. The 300 million dollars will help Romania overcome the difficulties related to its external payments deficit and prepare under relaxed circumstances the putting into effect of the program concluded with IMF.

By this loan Romania enters again, after more than ten years of absence, the economico-financial community it left by forced repayment of its foreign debt, added the governor of the National Bank.

'Recuperation of the Ceausescus' Wealth' Viewed

AU0803213091 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2002 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 8/3/1991—Romanian National Bank Governor Mugur Isarescu made, at a recent press conference, statements in connection with the proceedings of the "Commission for the Recuperation of the Ceausescus' Wealth," acting under his direction.

The commission has been trying to disentangle the intricate dealings of the Ceausescu clan, as well as those of the currency operations of the late Communist Party [PCR] and of the former Securitate, but the governor made it clear that the commission's work was "no easy task" that precisely for that reason the commission "needed a certain degree of protection" and asked the press to show patience and to put no pressure for details before certain issues were clarified.

The quantity of gold sold abroad from the Romanian state's reserves over 1986-1987 was 80.8 tonnes, for which 1.04 billion dollars were obtained, amount that covered some of the foreign debt service. The commission audited the cashier registers and, so far, no evidence could be found of illegal operations said governor Isarescu.

Relative to the precious metal objects in the possession of the clan—i.e. those found in the former headquarters of the Central Committee of the RCP and the 548 items collected from the former residential quarters in Primaverii 50—the governor informed that they were placed in the custody of the National Bank Treasury for expert examination, after which the competent authorities would decide about their destination.

The commission, added the governor, has done its best and will further strive to pick up the loose ends of this international affair. "Let us not forget, said he, that the Marcos fortune took almost five years of constant investigations to be recuperated. So far, from the information available, we have found new traces and recovered important amounts, which will be duly made public as soon as matters become clear."

Mr. Isarescu also notified that the commission would soon have a seat of its own and a spokesman that would keep the press posted on every progress.

Prime Minister Continues Latin American Tour

Meets Ecuadoran President, Other Officials

AU0903153391 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1010 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 9/3/1991—While visiting Ecuador Romania's Prime Minister Petre Roman had an interview at the Carondelet Palace with members of the cabinet.

Also, the Romanian prime minister was received on March 8 by the vice-president of the republic, Luis

Parodi, president of the Legislative Assembly. Roman discussed with members of the International Relations Parliamentary Commission, with high officials of the Ministry of Energy, with businessmen of Ecuador.

Yesterday's activities concluded with a call paid by the Romanian Prime Minister on the Ecuadorian President, Rodrigo Borja, who received him at the Presidential residence.

Cooperation Agreements Signed

AU0903155091 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1012 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 9/3/1991—A number of commercial and cooperation agreements deciding the intensification of the relations of collaboration and commercial exchanges were signed during the proceedings of the Romanian-Ecuadorian Joint Commission.

Both parties decided to intensify the cooperation in oil, mining and timber industry.

Also, the joint commission agreed on exchange of information for the implementation of technical assistance operations and the Romanian party agreed to participate in the building of industrial platforms in Ecuador for the manufacturing of cement, staple fiber and fertilizers.

The Romanian-Ecuadorian Joint Commission had a session occasioned by Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman's visit in Ecuador.

Visit Summed Up

AU0903195291 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1901 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 9/3/1991—In Quito, Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman concluded the talks occasioned by his visit to Ecuador. The concrete results of his exchanges of views and proposals are mirrored by the nine documents signed Friday [8 March] evening, in the presence of Ecuador President Rodrigo Borja and Romania's Prime Minister Petre Roman, by members of the two delegations. The documents also reflect the prospective lines of action of the Joint Romanian-Ecuadoran Commission which has held its session in Quito over the past few days.

The two sides spent an important share of their time to inform each other upon the changes under way in Romania and Ecuador and to tackle problems concerning the whole world.

All along, the tenor of the bilateral talks was one of marked cordiality. An unreserved readiness and political willingness to encourage cooperation in all fields could be noticed both with the top leaders of the Ecuadoran state and with the various specialized institutions contacted during the visit.

The memorandum signed on cooperation in the oil sector defines a number of concrete actions, to be carried out through the competent bodies of the two states, such as cooperation and technical assistance in training, specialization and exchange of personnel, technology and technical and commercial information. A team of experts of Petroecuador are expected to arrive soon at Bucharest to draw up with their Romanian colleagues programmes for Romanian assistance to specialist training. The importation of Romanian oil drilling equipment would be a second stage of this programme. The sides also contemplate joint exploitation of oil fields and shared profits. Agreements of particular interest were reached for the mining sector, which is credited with spectacular prospects in Ecuador and for which Romania has the necessary expertise.

Important targets have been set for ecological cooperation, with a particular stress on the protection of water, air, soil, subsoil, flora and fauna, human settlements, neutralization of radioactive wastes, as well as international legislation on the matter, aspects which have all been stipulated in the governmental agreement.

Sectors like education, science, culture, press and radio television were closely examined enabling the two sides to settle the prerequisites for a sustained and long-lasting cooperation in the said fields.

The range of documents concluded by the end of the visit include, among others, a protocol on consultations between the foreign ministries of the two countries, an agreement to mutually abolish diplomatic and service visas, an agreement on information swaps between ROMPRES, the Romanian national press agency, and the Ecuadoran National Secretariat for Social Communications, an agreement between the Romanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Ecuadoran Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, an agreement between the geriatric societies in the two countries.

The Romanian delegation, headed by the prime minister, and including two MP's, met the president and other representatives of the National Congress, with whom they shared information about the two countries' constitutional framework of statal institutions, about how laws are made and observed.

Nastase Sees SFRY Talks 'Productive, Concrete'

AU0903153491 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0902 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 9/3/1991—In a statement on his return home from a visit to Yugoslavia, Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase assessed that the talks conducted with his Yugoslav opposite-number, with other officials there, had been extremely productive and concrete. Noting that between the two countries "there are no difficult issues to settle, no problem, either political or economic" the Romanian minister stressed: "what matters to us is that we should best organize our relations for the future".

Serbian Parties To Ignore Demonstration Ban

LD0803160391 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1226 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 8 Mar (TANJUG)—Representatives of ten opposition parties from Serbia today informed journalists that they would not comply with the ban on peaceful demonstrations against unfair and biased reporting of Belgrade Television. The demonstrations are scheduled for tomorrow noon (1110 GMT) on Republic Square.

The decision, Vuk Draskovic explained, should be understood as an act of civil disobedience because Serbian authorities, in banning the demonstrations, are violating a fundamental democratic right to peaceful, public gathering.

From Republic Square protestors will head for Takovska 10 where they will remain until the following actions: the editorial board of Belgrade Television tenders its resignation, broadcasts a denial of the Serbian Renaissance Movement regarding Belgrade Television commentary from 16 February, and until the Serbian Assembly issues written assurances that other opposition demands will be put on the agenda of the first assembly session.

Opposition Leaders Demand To See Milosevic

AU0803195291 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] A group of deputies of the Serbian Renaissance Movement [SPO] urgently demanded today to be received by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic to directly inform him about SPO, and 10 opposition parties, demands.

The letter to President Milosevic includes an appeal to the head of state to help make the editors of Belgrade Radio and Television tender their resignations, something that would eliminate the danger of demonstrators setting off for Takovska Street No. 10 [building of the Belgrade Television].

SPO deputies have asked the president of the Serbian National Assembly to convene a regular assembly session for tomorrow.

Milosevic Refuses Meeting

LD0903045191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2323 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, March 8 (TANJUG)—President of the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia Slobodan Milosevic on Friday night assessed that all questions of interest to the country's largest republic should be resolved in its assembly, refusing in this way to talk to the Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO) about the scheduled meeting of this party in Belgrade on Saturday.

In response to a message on Friday from the legislative group of the Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO), Milosevic, as set out by the Belgrade television, said "all demands should be responded at the proper place—in the Assembly of Serbia. This means, neither at meetings nor in a talk between the MPs and the republican president."

The SPO legislative group called for an urgent meeting with Milosevic so as to inform him about the demands of this and ten other opposition parties, prior to their demonstrations in Belgrade on Saturday.

Representatives of the opposition parties set out at a press conference on Friday that they would demonstrate on Saturday outside the building of the Belgrade television and stay until the top television officials resigned.

The opposition demands that the Serbian legislature ban Serbia's ruling Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS) and the League of Communists-Movement for Yugoslavia from carrying out the personnel and editorial policies of the Belgrade television.

According to the Belgrade television, Slobodan Milosevic accepted to receive an SPO legislative group when his duties permitted him to do so.

SPO Reports Police Blockades in Belgrade

LD0903105891 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1026 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—With great dismay and concern we inform you that members of all branches of the police began early this morning to block the streets, crossroads, and squares of Belgrade. We are receiving news that the approaches to Belgrade are also under blockade. In effect, every brutal measure has been taken to prevent the scheduled peaceful demonstrations on Republic Square.

This is the focus of a public statement delivered to TANJUG by the executive of the Serbian Renaissance Movement [SPO] at about 1100 this morning. The statement adds that the SPO anticipates tragic consequences, which in their view, only the authorities can be held responsible.

Police Prepare for Opposition Rally

LD0903104991 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1025 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—In Belgrade this morning, increased police patrols were seen in the city center. These measures have been taken regarding the scheduled rally of opposition parties in Republic Square and in front of Belgrade Television. As is known, the authorized services have banned the public rally in the city center, but the leadership of the Serbian Renaissance Movement, with the support of several other opposition parties, has announced that it will proceed with demonstrations and the seige of Belgrade Television planned for today.

Confrontation Before Rally; Police Respond

LD0903111991 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1101 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—Immediately before the start of the rally, strong police forces clashed with demonstrators in front of the Prince Mihajlo monument in Republic Square. The police are using strong jets from water cannons and tear gas to disperse several thousand people gathered there, and are dispersing demonstrators surrounding the water cannon with batons. The demonstrators are throwing stones.

The police water cannons are being driven at high speed toward groups of demonstrators.

Several demonstrators are laying on the street.

Security Forces Withdraw From Republic Square

LD0903112491 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1108 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—Faced with the surge of demonstrators, the police were forced to withdraw from Republic Square at exactly 1200.

The demonstrators attacked an armored vehicle and at one point even raised a Serbian Renaissance Movement flag on one of them. The security forces retreated along Francuska Street. The demonstrators then returned and filled the open area of the square.

Police Return to Square

LD0903114891 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1126 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—Today's peaceful [as received] demonstrations of 10 Serbian opposition parties have begun in Belgrade's Republic Square after a delay of 15 minutes [caused by police forces].

Some 30,000 demonstrators loudly greeted Vuk Draskovic [Serbian Renaissance Party Chairman], who has still not been able to address the demonstrators from the monument of Prince Mihajlo because of the loud shouting.

The strong police forces, which had withdrawn, have returned to Republic Square.

Barricades Placed Around Square

LD0903132691 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1306 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—Following clashes with the public security forces, the demonstrators have blocked all streets around Republic Square with improvised barricades.

In front of the National Theater building the demonstrators have vandalized [demolirali] several trolleys and have overturned two police cars. In Francuska Street and 29 November Street several parked cars and trash bins have been dragged onto the street.

Several hundred people have broken into the theater building, and many of them are injured.

Charges Filed Against Protest Organizers

LD0903121191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1137 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—The Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs has announced that as a result of the "aggressive behavior of the participants in the demonstrations" in Republic Square in Belgrade, a police cordon was breached at 1140.

As a result of this, the commander of a Internal Affairs brigade, Sretan Jecmenica, was seriously injured. Because of this, it added, the available methods of repelling the attack were used, but there is no mention of whether any demonstrators were injured.

Criminal charges have been brought against the Serbian Renaissance Movement and Vuk Draskovic as organizers of these militant demonstrations, the Internal Affairs statement reports.

SPO Chairman Draskovic Issues Demands

LD0903133891 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1253 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—The demonstrators will not stop until all demands are met. We will wait until 1600. This was stated by Serbian Renaissance Movement [SPO] Chairman Vuk Draskovic at about 1300 today from the balcony of the National Theater in Belgrade in an address to some 100,000 people, the number of people estimated to be in Republic Square and its approaches.

At 1600 today, leading figures of Belgrade Television, Dusan Mitevic, Sergej Sestakov, Predrag Vitas, Ivan Krievec, and Slavko Budinha must submit their resignations. Further, the Belgrade Television broadcast the SPO denial of their commentary of 16 February and that the Serbian Assembly inform the organizers of the demonstrations that all the other demands of the opposition parties will put on the agenda of the next session of the Serbian Assembly.

Serbian Authorities: Protesters Carried Arms

LD0903141191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1325 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, March 9 (TANJUG)—The Interior Ministry of the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia on Saturday announced it took away "several pieces of firearms and cold steel" from members of Serbia's strongest opposition party—the Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO)—who were arriving for the banned protest meeting in downtown Belgrade.

The announcement sets out that these were for the most part officials of the SPO local committees, who were disarmed during "rountine control" of vehicles of the protest meeting participants on regional roads approaching Belgrade.

The ministry underlined that the SPO representatives announced the demonstrations were going to be peaceful. The arms that were taken away, however, "were evidently intended for inviting incidents and direct clashes with police."

Automatic Weapons Taken From Police

LD0903141791 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1327 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Summary] Belgrade, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—Vuk Draskovic [Serbian Renaissance Party Chairman] told the Republic Square demonstrators that the Serbian president has two paths before him: "On one lie our lives and the lives of the policemen from whom our men have taken automatic weapons and on the other are salvation, peace, five resignations, and one denial."

Noting that as a non-party intellectual he was speaking on his own behalf, Borislav Mihajlovic-Mihiz said that he was joining the protest against the anti-democratic, violent, communist authorities and the unfree Republic of Serbia. In 50 years of communist rule by terror an ugly, fettered press has been created, Mihiz said.

Leon Kojen [Democratic Forum Chairman] said that this rally was not against Belgrade Television, but a rally against communist violence. They want to create a second Bucharest, Kojen said, and to defend their power with tear gas. This is why the basic demand today must be the establishment of the accountability of those who violently attacked innocent people.

Demonstrators Marching on TV Building Disperse

LD0903142591 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1404 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—At about 1335 GMT today, strong police forces managed to repel the onslaught of demonstrators on the TV building. As before, they used water cannons and tear gas. The demonstrators dispersed for the time being and headed for Tasmajdan park.

Belgrade Workers 'To Oppose' Demonstrators

AU0903145691 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] We have just received the announcement that because constitutional and democratic order has been undermined by a militant group of demonstrators organized by the Serbian Renaissance Movement, workers have set off from several Belgrade collectives to oppose the demonstrators and defend the Serbian Assembly and thereby protect the constitutional order of Serbia and Yugoslavia from violence.

Draskovic Addresses Appeal to Milosevic

LD0903150191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1415 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Summary] Belgrade, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—Belgrade Television, in a special news program, first informed the public of the demonstrations in Republic Square just after 1400. At that time it was stated that criminal charges had been brought against Serbian Renaissance Movement leader Vuk Draskovic. From the Serbian Assembly Vuk Draskovic addressed the public via the Studio-B radio station. He addressed an appeal to Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic to intervene and make it possible for the basic demands of the opposition parties to be fulfilled, above all the dismissal of the managment team of Belgrade Television. This would prevent "bloodshed" and bring the demonstrations to an end, Draskovic said.

Protestors Demonstrate Outside Serbian Assembly

LD0903150391 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1419 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—Some time after 1400 about 20,000 demonstrators gathered outside the Serbian Assembly building. Chanting slogans in support of SPO [Serbian Renaissance Movement] Chairman Vuk Draskovic, they are insisting that all their demands for the resignation of top officials of Belgrade Television be met. Moreover, that the denial of Slavko Budihna's recent commentary on Belgrade Television be announced. The deadline for these demands is 1600.

SPO Delegate Zoran Horvan addressed the demonstrators about 10 minutes ago telling them that negotiations were under way and that the arrival of Serbian Prime Minister Dragutin Zelenovic is expected. Slogans such as "Slobo [Milosevic] go away, Slobo Stalin" could be heard outside the Assembly. Currently the delegation of the opposition parties represented in the legislature is engaged in talks with one of the Assembly vice presidents in the building.

Two Reported Dead in Demonstrations

LD0903155191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1529 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—Today's demonstrations have claimed two lives—policeman Nedeljko Kosovic and a young man who has not yet been identified.

According to Dr. Aleksandar Karadzic, director of the emergency surgical clinic, the policeman succumbed to head injuries at 1405 GMT. The other victim was also

received at the same clinic and his injuries had been caused by gun shots. His identity has not yet been established.

As reported earlier, the clinic has treated a large number of injured since the beginning of the demonstrations.

Draskovic: Negotiations are 'Under Way'

AU0903162891 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1600 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Nebojsa Spajic report]

[Text] [Spajic] The demonstrators in front of the Serbian Assembly building have been addressed by Serbian Renaissance Movement Chairman Vuk Draskovic. He said that negotiations are under way with representatives of the Serbian government.

He also announced that, according to his information, people have been killed on both sides. It is impossible to verify the truth of these claims at the scene.

The demonstrators are in control of Marshall Tito Street, the main street in Belgrade, from the Beogradjanka building to the corner of Terazije. A militia car has been turned over and set on fire in front of the London Hotel. The demonstrators are smashing shop windows and some of them have also stolen goods from these shops. In general, everything that can be smashed on the way is being smashed. Demonstrators are only letting through the numerous ambulances that come through with their sirens blaring.

The demonstrators are concentrated at the Assembly building and are shouting in favor of Vuk Draskovic and against Slobodan Milosevic.

From a high window in the building from where I am reporting, the impression is that some of the demonstrators are dispersing. The core, however, has no intention at present of leaving the area fronting the Assembly building.

Serbian Internal Affairs Ministry Issues Warning

LD0903164391 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1532 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—"On the occasion of confronting and preventing of a destructive march by demonstrators of the Serbian Renaissance Movement [SPO] on the buildings of Belgrade TV, the National Assembly, and the Presidency of the Republic, during today's SPO demonstrations in Belgrade several hundred police of the Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs [MUP] were injured and one member of the police died from his injuries on the way to hospital," says a Serbian MUP statement.

The MUP warns that "unless the destructive and terrorist actions by the SPO demonstrators stop immediately, all available means, including arms, will have to be used to protect the constitutional order and the life and security of citizens and members of the internal affairs services."

"We call on those taking part in the demonstrations and the citizens of Belgrade who are on the streets in the central part of the city to withdraw from the streets in the interests of the calming of the situation and the preservation of public order and peace in Belgrade, and make a contribution toward there not being any more innocent victims," the MUP statement concludes.

Draskovic Asks People To Leave Police Alone

LD0903172191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1630 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—While waiting to be received by top republican officials, Vuk Draskovic and the opposition delegates made contact with the demonstrators gathered outside the Serbian Assembly. Draskovic's every appearance at a window of the Assembly was followed by a storm of enthusiastic cheering, especially when he raised the national flag with the cross on the highest mast of the Assembly.

Amid cries of "Orthodox Serbia" and "Vuk, Vuk," Draskovic appealed to the demonstrators to wait patiently for the outcome of talks between the opposition representatives and the authorities.

Finally, Draskovic asked his supporters to leave the policemen alone, saying that "they should be left to join their own people of their own accord". [passage omitted]

Threatens Formation of New Government

LD0903180391 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1709 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—If all our demands are not met, we will form a new government of national salvation tonight, Serbian Renaissance Movement Chairman Vuk Draskovic announced at 1645 GMT this afternoon just before he entered the building of the Serbian government for talks with Prime Minister Dragutin Zelenovic.

He told the crowd of demonstrators that Zelenovic and the representatives of the authorities who do not dare to come out and face the people deserve to be replaced tonight. His announcement was followed by cries of "Resignations, resignations," and "No more waiting."

Draskovic said that "there is unrest in the majority of Serbian towns" and that "Serbia will win a victory tonight."

Ministry Reports Arms Found at SPO Meeting

LD0903182291 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1235 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—The Serbian Internal Affairs Ministry informs the public that, "in

carrying out regular checks of participants in the Serbian Renaissance Movement [SPO] public meeting, workers of the Serbian Internal Affairs Ministry found a number of firearms and offensive weapons on the Belgrade-Nis motorway; Ibar main road; and Kragujevac-Mladenovac, Smederova-Belgrade, and Zajecar-Paracin regional roads."

Despite a previous announcement by representatives that the demonstrations would be "peaceful" and despite repeated warnings by authorized officials of the city of Belgrade and the Republic of Serbia to the organizers of the meeting that the movement would bear all responsibility for threatening people's lives, for violating public peace and order, and for all other possible consequences, weapons were found on and confiscated from some leaders of the movement's local committees, which was obviously intended to provoke excesses and to be used for direct attacks on members of the internal affairs authorities. [passage omitted]

All the weapons were confiscated and vehicles returned to their points of departure. The announcement also states that similar offensive objects were found in some buses.

Republic Square Resembles Battle Site

LD0903183691 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1712 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Davor Pasalic and Dusko Drazic report; all punctuation as received]

[Text] Belgrade, March 9 (TANJUG)—Following clashes on Saturday between police and demonstrators, the Belgrade downtown Republic Square resembled a battle site after battle.

Signs of fierce, nearly two-hour clashes between police and demonstrators—several damaged trolley buses, broken traffic lights, two overturned cars, barricades from garbage disposal containers, may be seen everyhere.

Pedestrians were staying clear from the houses, because strong southeasterly wind threatens to bring down parts of glass from broken window panes. At the "Inex" restaurant on the Republic Square has not a single window pane left unharmed. The situation is much the same with all other nearby restaurants, galleries and shops.

The entire Republic Square is virtually covered with bits of broken glass.

Head of Serbia's main opposition party—the Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO)—Vuk Draskovic was amid thunderous chanting of the demonstrators flew the Serbian flag with a cross in place of the red star at half of the republican assembly's main mast. [sentence as received]

Opposite the Serbian Assembly, the window panes on the republican Presidency building were broken the police guard houses were also destroyed.

Nearby, a police car was damaged and overturned.

Moving from the Republic Square toward the republican Presidency and the legislative buildings, a group of demonstrators saw a picture of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic at an office building and threw stones at it, as the crowd cheered them on.

Only Militiamen in Front of Serbian Assembly

AU0903190091 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1820 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Nebojsa Spajic report from the Serbian Assembly building on 9 March]]

[Excerpt] [Spajic] There is no one but militiamen in front of the Serbian Assembly building at the moment. The journalists who are in the Assembly could not see what happened but tear gas can be tasted [word indistinct] in the Assembly building. A great number of militiamen are standing at the entrance to the Serbian Assembly building and, as far as can be seen in front of it, there are no longer any demonstrators whatsoever to the left and right in Marshall Tito Street. [passage omitted]

Tanks Appear in Central Belgrade

LD0903194991 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1925 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—Some time before 2000 the security of military and some other vital facilities in the center of Belgrade was strengthened.

In the central part of the city tanks and military transporte appeared. Some time later several military armored vehicles were stationed in the Trg Republike and in front of the Belgrade television building.

The buildings of the Federal Secretariat for National Defense and the General Headquarters in Prince Milos Street were particularly strengthened. Late this evening the most militant demonstrators in a destructive march threw stones at these buildings.

'Constitutional Means' To Restore Order

LD0903200191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1922 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic stated this evening that the "state services will use all their constitutional authority" to restore order and peace to this Yugoslav republic.

"Serbia must confront the forces of chaos and insanity by all constitutional means," Milosevic said in a statement broadcast in Belgrade television's Daily News.

Milosevic called on all Serbian citizens, in the framework of their possibilities, to help the state services to prevent "the destructive march of the forces of chaos and violence."

Serbian Authorities Suspend Studio-B Television

LD0903201891 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1858 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—Regarding today's broadcast by Television Studio-B, the Serbian Internal Affairs Ministry [MUP] issued a statement: "For calling on people to take part in the Serbian Renaissance Movement demonstrations in the center of Belgrade, which were banned by the authorities, for stimulating the participants to rebel, for fomenting destructive and militant demonstrations, in which several members of the internal affairs services were injured, and in which so far one of them has died of his injuries, the Serbian MUP has warned the chief and executive editor of Studio-B to suspend its broadcasts; this was accepted. Tapes were confiscated, and immediately afterwards, accompanied by criminal charges, they were handed over to the appropriate municipal public prosecutor in Belgrade."

Studio-B Director Defends Station Work

LD0903211491 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2003 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—The allegations by the Internal Affairs Ministry [MUP] of Serbia against Studio-B are completely unfounded, Dragan Kojadinovic, director and chief executive editor stated to TANJUG this evening.

Regarding the MUP statement, which reproaches Studio-B for "calling on people to take part in demonstrations" and orders it to "suspend such broadcasting immediately," Kojadinovic says that the employees in this institution have done their work professionally. This, he added, is the stance of the council of Studio-B.

Studio-B is continues this evening broadcasting its radio and television programs "with reduced current affairs broadcasting," Kojadinovic concluded.

Prior to this evening's MUP and Kojadinovic's statements, TANJUG learned during the afternoon in Studio-B that "sometime after 1700 hours people from the republican state security service entered the rooms of this radio and television station and announced that the public prosecutor would soon suspend broadcasting because of the alarm caused among the public." Immediately a meeting of the editorial council was held at which it was assessed that "only professional work has been carried out—nothing more and nothing less."

The program announcers then informed viewers of this, and "because broadcasting had in some way been suspended," a musical interlude was aired.

Milosevic: 'Oppose' the 'Chaos and Madness'

AU0903203491 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Statement by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade on 9 March—recorded]

[Text] [Milosevic] The greatest quality that our country and people have was attacked today in Serbia and Belgrade: Peace was undermined. Peace is the basic condition without which we cannot successfully solve one single problem that we have, and we have many.

Therefore, Serbia must oppose the forces of chaos and madness using all constitutional means. I am thus asking and demanding that all citizens of Serbia contribute to peace and the establishment of order, by above all extending aid to state services according to their abilities and helping in their work places to eliminate as soon as possible the consequences of the destructive campaign of the forces of chaos and violence.

The republic's state services will use their constitutional powers in the interest of the peace of the citizens of Serbia and they will not allow anyone to sow chaos and violence in Serbia.

I call on the citizens of Serbia, and above all the citizens of Belgrade, to maintain their presence of mind and reason at these difficult moments and to be sure that it will be peace and democracy that will be victorious in Serbia and not chaos and violence.

Demonstrators Dispersed at Serbian Assembly

LD0903203791 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1852 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—By 1900 there were no demonstrators in front of the Serbian National Assembly. The police dispersed them with tear gas. Following this action a larger group of demonstrators set off toward the Serbian governmenent building, which is situated at the intersection of Nemanjina Street and Kneza Milosa Street, and then went off toward the railway station, destroying everything in their path. Only journalists and security guards can be found in the National Assembly building now.

Seven hours after the start of the demonstrations no official information on the future of the demonstrators' demands has been issued. Late this afternoon Serbian Assembly Vice President Borivoje Petrovic called on leaders and deputies of the opposition parties represented in the Serbian Assembly to leave the Serbian Assembly building and to come to the Serbian government building, which is some 200 meters away from the Serbian National Assembly.

A group of deputies entered the Serbian government building in Nemanjina Street, but the group did not include the leaders of the opposition parties. They returned to the Assembly building the same way they had

entered it after elections—through a side entrance. At the moment Vuk Draskovic, Nebojse Popv, Dragan Veselinov, and Leon Koen are trying to reach an agreement on what further actions to take.

Presidency Orders Belgrade Tank Deployment

LD0903203891 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1945 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, March 9 (TANJUG)—Military armoured vehicles appeared on Belgrade streets this evening "on orders from the Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia," as Belgrade television reported.

The duty of the military armoured vehicles is to "guard the major facilities" in the city, as the Belgrade television report said.

Tanks and military armored carriers appeared on the streets of Belgrade slightly before 8 p.m. local time (7 p.m. GMT) on Saturday.

Several military vehicles were stationed at the Republic Square in downtown Belgrade and outside the Belgrade television building, where demonstrators clashed with police.

Security of the Defense Ministry and the Army Headquarters was especially stepped up.

On Saturday night, demonstrators threw stones at these buildings.

Army Units Appear on Streets

AU0903204091 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Excerpt] On the order of the SFRY Presidency, units of the Yugoslav People's Army appeared on the streets of Belgrade at 1930. They are performing their regular task of protecting the constitutional order and preserving peace and order. [passage omitted]

Serbian Renaissance Movement Leader Arrested

LD0903211191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2047 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 3 Mar (TANJUG)—Only a moment ago we received the news and we are now informing the public, our members, and supporters, that Serbian Renaissance Movement Chairman Vuk Draskovic has been arrested.

This news was dictated over the telephone to TANJUG by Jovan Marjanovic, one of the leaders of this Serbian opposition political party.

This move was announced at noon today in a statement of the Serbian Internal Affairs Ministry, which stated that "criminal charges have been brought against the Serbian Renaissance Movement and Vuk Draskovic as the organizer of these militant protests."

Serbian Authorities Condemn Demonstrations

LD0903212191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2026 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—The Serbian government, at its session on 9 March 1991 (presided over by President Dragutin Zelenovic), examined the present security situation in the republic caused by the organization of demonstrations by the Serbian Renaissance Movement and other opposition parties.

At the session it was concluded that the government had timely examined the heralded demonstrations and had issued a statement on Thursday [7 March], recalled that regular multiparty elections had been held in the republic, and that the Constitution of the republic had come into force. Therefore, it concluded that no excuse existed for anybody to threaten human and civil rights and the public peace and order with violent behavior.

The Serbian Internal Affairs Ministry also recalled that demonstrations and rallies can be held only in places specified for this purpose by a decision of Belgrade city authorities.

Despite being announced as peaceful demonstrations of opposition parties, they turned into destructive activity, vandalism, and violence, during which a policeman and a citizen were killed and a number of people injured.

All this is being organized at a time when the major part of the police force of Serbia is in Kosovo to protect the safety of Serbs and Montenegrins, and when in certain parts of the country the security and lives of the local Serbian population are threatened.

The Serbian government calls on the citizens of Serbia to remain calm and dignified and to permit the legal examination of all demands from deputies of any party within the Serbian Assembly.

In view of the character and consequences of the demonstrations, the public will be acquainted with the results of the implemented investigation, and the perpetrators of violence and those to blame for causing casualties will be held accountable before a regular court.

The Serbian government regrets that the opposition parties have abused the introduction of legislative democracy for violence, destruction, and for the shedding of blood - -at the most crucial time for the Serbian nation as a whole.

The organizers of the destructive protest meeting—at a time when Serbia above all needs unity of all citizens, work, order, peace, and the further development of democratic relations—bear special responsibility. The simultaneous occurrence of these events and their planned consequences with some other events in adjacent areas, aimed at destroying Serbia and the Serbian nation, gives an unambiguous indication of the background to what has happened, as well as the goals of the seemingly peaceful demonstrations.

The Serbian government will use all available means to preserve the order, peace, and security of all its citizens, the statement concludes.

Announce Demonstrations Ended

LD0903212491 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2054 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—A little after 2100 the protests in Belgrade ended, TANJUG was informed by the Serbian government.

There were no demonstrations in any other Serbian towns, the same source reported.

The Serbian government this evening received telegrams of support from a number of places throughout the republic. Citizens and work organizations call for "peace and order to be preserved and violent activity by militant members of some parties to be averted."

The telegrams express unreserved support for all legally and democratically elected Serbian institutions, who are called on to do everything to put an end to this unrest.

Ministry Issues Statement on Draskovic Arrest

LD0903221291 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2139 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Statement issued by the Serbian Internal Affairs Ministry in Belgrade on 9 March]

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—The Serbian Internal Affairs service detained Serbian Renaissance Movement Chairman Vuk Draskovic this evening because on 9 March 1991, he organized disturbances and violence in Belgrade in which two persons lost their lives and a large number of people were injured, some seriously, and because in these events a serious threat to life and property came about.

The detention is in accordance with the criminal law.

Presidency Reports Serbia Requested Deployment

LD0903224291 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2205 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Statement issued by the SFRY Information Service in Belgrade on 9 March]

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—Regarding the destructive demonstrations in Belgrade, during which weapons were used and casualties caused, and given that the majority of its police force is in Kosovo and Metohija, the leadership of the Republic of Serbia called on the SFRY Presidency to allow the deployment of units of the armed forces to stop brutal attacks and violence of militant groups of demonstrators.

The SFRY Presidency decided to deploy adequate units of the Army to secure public peace and order, vital buildings, and personal and property security of citizens.

'Enormous Material Damage' Caused in Disturbances

LD0903224391 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2154 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—Enormous material damage has been caused by the destructive demonstrations of members of the Serbian Renaissance Movement and other opposition forces to many businesses, houses, and other buildings in the city, says a statement-cum-appeal by the Serbian Internal Affairs Ministry.

The staterment adds: Internal Affairs units are not able to fully safeguard damaged buildings, therefore, the owners and users of these buildings are asked to take measures during the night for their direct protection and safeguarding.

Serbian Assembly Deputies Begin Hunger Strike

LD0903225191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2208 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—Seventeen deputies of the Serbian Renaissance Movement [Srpski Pokret Obnove—SPO] and one deputy each from the Serbian Democratic Party and the Reformist Forces for Vojvodina began a hunger strike in the Serbian Assembly this evening at approximately 2200 hours.

This group of Serbian Assembly deputies decided to go on hunger strike, TANJUG was told, after talks with Serbian Assembly Vice Presidents Borivoje Petrovic and Pavic Obradovic, who informed them with the conclusions and public statement of the Serbian government regarding today's demonstrations.

The opposition deputies did not accept the text of the statement. They requested that the numerous police forces leave the Assembly building. The strike will not end until an extraordinary session of the Serbian Assembly is scheduled, at which responsibility for today's events would be established.

Slovenia's Drnovsek Against Army Deployment

LD0903230191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2234 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Ljubljana, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—Slovene Radio and Television, referring to information from Slovene SFRY Presidency Member Janez Drnovsek, reported that a "telephone" session of the SFRY Presidency was held regarding the situation in Belgrade, and SFRY Presidency President Borisav Jovic's proposal to deploy Army units to normalize the situation in Belgrade.

According to the report, Drnovsek was against the deployment, saying that the Army cannot be called on to resolve internal political problems in any republic, irrespective of whether it is Serbia, Croatia, or Kosovo. Drnovsek holds that it is necessary to establish a dialogue with opposition parties and to seek a political solution to the problem.

FEC on 'Wild Violation' of Public Order

LD1003003691 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2335 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Statement issued by the Federal Executive Council in Belgrade on 9 March]

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—The Federal Executive Council [FEC] examined the current security situation in Belgrade caused by today's banned demonstrations in the city center, which were transformed into a wild violation of public peace and order and assumed destructive characteristics.

The FEC concluded that two people were killed, and dozens of people injured.

The FEC calls for public peace and order to be immediately established, personal and property security of all citizens of Belgrade to be secured, demonstrations to be discontinued, and the situation in the city to be brought back to normal.

Proceeding from all the changes being implemented in our society, the FEC emphasizes that all social and political questions can be resolved only in a peaceful and democratic way, within the institutions of the present political multiparty system, and that nobody has the right to resolve questions in the street in a forceful way, threatening human lives, property, and general security. The processes of democratization and reform in our society, including all its parts, require this, and the FEC is convinced that these unpleasant events will not have any influence on the further development of these processes.

The FEC has already called on competent bodies to examine, within their constitutional and legal powers, all the circumstances causing these tragic events; legal measures should be taken against all those who caused this situation, and who violated public peace and order—and the circumstances that caused casualties should be particularly examined. All contentious questions in our society must be resolved by democratic means.

The FEC will, in cooperation with the Serbian government follow further developments and take measures within its authority to secure the peace and security of all citizens of Belgrade. It will also do the same in all similar situations in the whole country, the FEC statement concludes.

Mesic Opposes Use of Army in Belgrade

LD1003090591 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0106 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Statement by SFRY Presidency Vice President Stipe Mesic for Croatian TV in Zagreb on 10 March]

[Text] Zagreb, 10 Mar (TANJUG)—In his statement for Croatian Radio and Television last night, SFRY Presidency Vice President Stipe Mesic noted that the demand for the resignation of several editors and the directors of Belgrade TV could be described as banal, but that the causes of Saturday's demonstrations in Belgrade went farther.

Mesic said in his statement that he received a telephone call from SFRY Presidency General Secretary Anton Stari who told him of events in Belgrade and at the same time asked him to comment on the use of the Army.

"The demonstrations have reached serious proportions. Nonetheless, I thought they [Army troops] were unnecessary. There is no place for the Army in these situations. I thought the Army was not supposed to take over police duties. It is obvious that other members thought otherwise. The Army is in the streets, but the damage is enormous; there are victims, both killed and injured," said Mesic.

"If we go back in time and take a better look," he continued, "we can see all kinds of meetings at which all kinds of promises had been made, even to solve the problems in Croatia. The proverb that says he who sows the wind reaps the storm has come true."

Mesic continued, "this was a conflict of dogmatic-bolshevist forces versus the forces of democracy."

"I have always believed in democracy and continue to do so, and I believe the Serbian people will find the strength to solve their problems democratically. I also believe, however, that all those who have been led astray will realize that no one can portray the situation in Croatia in false colors and base his attitude on this."

"I think that through a democratic dialogue, despite these events, we will solve our problems and overcome the crisis," Mesic concluded.

Jovic Ordered Army Action; Belgrade 'Uncertain'

LD1003093891 Zagreb Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0900 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] HINA [Croatian News Agency] has learned that the decision to deploy the Army in Belgrade yesterday was made by SFRY Presidency President Borisav Jovic following individual telephone conversations with each Presidency member. Four members favored, while the other two, Stipe Mesic and Janez Drnovsek, were against any Army intervention in the conflict between the Serbian authorities and the demonstrators.

The situation in Belgrade is still uncertain. Army tanks and armored vehicles can still be seen in some of the streets. Outside the Belgrade TV center, tanks and rmored vehicles are positioned in the same way as last night.

HINA also reports that there is no evidence of either militia or Army troops at the Belgrade railway station this morning. This morning Belgrade TV did not depart from its usual Sunday morning scheduling and has been broadcasting light music.

Croatian National Defense Council on Events

LD1003101491 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0146 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Statement issued by the Croatian Council for National Defense and Protection of Constitutional Order in Zagreb; date not given]

[Text] Zagreb, 10 Mar (TANJUG)—At its session late last night, presided over by [Croatian President] Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian Council for National Defense and Protection of Constitutional Order discussed the situation following the unfortunate events in Belgrade.

The Council expressed "regret at the fact that the democratic way in which citizens tried to express their will turned into bloodshed," according to the statement.

"The Council is protesting the illegal decision to use the Army to perform police duties in an attempt to suppress the democratic expression of citizens' will."

"The Council considered the situation in Croatia and instructed the Croatian Internal Affairs Ministry to step up security to protect public and state services in particular.

"The Council noted with satisfaction the maturity that the democratic authorities and the people of Croatia have shown in the course of democratic transformations and in overall political life in the republic. The Council therefore calls on all citizens of the Republic of Croatia to proceed with their regular duties, to maintain peace and dignity, and to support the policies of the Croatian leadership," the statement says in conclusion.

Belgrade 'Peaceful' on Morning After Clashes

LD1003105191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0858 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, March 10 (TANJUG)—Everything is peaceful in Belgrade on Sunday morning but the Army is still safeguarding major facilities in the city following yesterday's clashes between the demonstrators and the Serbian police.

Traffic is normal and the situation in the city is gradually normalizing.

Tanks, sent into the streets of Belgrade around 8 p.m. local time (1900 GMT), are still safeguarding the Federal Assembly, the Federal Defence Ministry and the Yugoslav Army headquarters as well as state institutions of the Republic of Serbia.

The Yugoslav Presidency ordered armoured Army units into the streets of Belgrade at the request by the Serbian leadership. The request was made following the unrests which errupted during the demonstrations by Serbian opposition parties, held despite the authorities' ban.

The opposition parties protested against what they see as biased reporting by Belgrade Television to the advantage of the ruling Socialist Party of Serbia.

SPO Vice President Marjanovic Arrested

LD1003112791 Zagreb Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Following the arrest last night of Serbian Renaissance Movement President Vuk Draskovic, the party's vice president, Dr. Jovan Marjanovic, was arrested in Belgrade this morning. According to HINA [Croatian News Agency], eight policemen forced their way into the Serbian Renaissance Movement headquarters without a search warrant, and arrested Marjanovic.

A representative of the Serbian Renaissance Movement told AFP that an unsuccessful protest against the arrest had been lodged.

Serbian Opposition Outlines Demands to Government

LD1003115791 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1116 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Statement by SPO President Slobodan Rakitic in Belgrade on 10 March]

[Text] Belgrade, 10 Mar (TANJUG)—The government is laying all the blame for yesterday's events on the opposition, forgetting that it was warned in time of the possible consequences if the leaders of Belgrade Radio and TV did not resign. This was stated by the leader of the SPO [Serbian Renaissance Movement] legislative group of deputies in a statement for Belgrade Radio pertaining to yesterday's demonstration in Belgrade.

Slobodan Rakitic added that the attitude of the opposition deputies is to urgently convene a news conference in the Serbian Assembly, release SPO leader Vuk Draskovic and Vice Chairman Jovan Marjanovic, and urgently convene a session of the Serbian Assembly at which the demands—the reason for organizing peaceful demonstrations—will be met, the causes of the unjustified use of force will be examined, and solutions will be found to overcome the existing situation. The opposition deputies are at present in the assembly and their protest has taken the form of a hunger strike, Rakitic stated for Belgrade Radio.

Drnovsek, Mesic Skip Presidency Session

LD1003124391 Belgrde TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1203 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Ljubljana, 10 Mar (TANJUG)—The Slovene SFRY Presidency office has announced that Dr. Janez Drnovsek is not attending today's session of the SFRY Presidency in Belgrade. The statement says that yesterday Drnovsek endorsed neither the proposed measures nor the use of the Yugoslav People's Army [JNA] units, insisting that the JNA has no mandate to resolve internal political problems whether in Serbia, Croatia, or

Kosovo. Drnovsek believes that the present situation in Belgrade is not conducive to SFRY Presidency sessions, and he has therefore proposed that an expanded session of the SFRY Presidency planned for Tuesday in Belgrade should be transferred to Ljubljana.

Moreover, SFRY Presidency Vice President Stipe Mesic is also not attending today's Belgrade session.

Several Papers View Belgrade Demonstration

LD1003124791 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1155 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, March 10 (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav press today gives detailed reports about yesterdays' demonstrations in Belgrade in which one policeman and one demonstrator were killed and at least 76 people injured.

"Belgrade - a battlefield" and "Bloodshed" are only some of the characteristic headlines in this morning's papers.

The Belgrade daily BORBA, which is not published on Sundays, today printed a special issue in which it gives a detailed review of yesterday's events. BORBA quotes official statements, but also statements given by participants in the demonstrations, as well as by some prominent reporters and writers who condemn the police actions.

The Belgrade dailies POLITIKA and POLITIKA EKSPRES describe the demonstrations as a "destructive campaign" staged by the Serbian Renewal Movement, the strongest opposition party in Serbia, which organzied yesterday's demonstrations.

The daily DNEVNIK which is published in Novi Sad, capital of the Serbian province of Vojvodina, described the demonstrations as the use of violence against legal authorities.

The daily VJESNIK published in the Republic of Croatia reports about yesterday's events under a headline "Opposition Attacked with Tear-gas and Horses." This daily compares the events in Belgrade with those in Bucharest in December 1989, when Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was toppled.

NOVA MAKEDONIJA, the central daily of the Republic of Macedonia, assesses that yesterday's events were the bloodiest since the student demonstrations in Belgrade in 1968.

'Incredible Chaos' Repeated in Belgrade

LD1003125191 Zagreb Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1200 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Ivanka Sutlic-Peric report from Belgrade on 10 March]

[Text] [Peric] Our foreboding that the small number of pedestrians and vehicles this morning was perhaps just an illusion has come true. In less than half an hour, in scenes that looked very similar to yesterday, an incredible chaos of people and vehicles formed in the city center. Even military police vehicles found it difficult to get through, and they are concentrating on Republic Square for the time being. Some clashes between the police and citizens have been noticed by the Albania Building, where Knez Mihajlo Street joins Republic Square. The machine guns on armored vehicles outside the Albania Building and on several vehicles stationed on the way to the Belgrade Radio building are quickly revolving, while even larger crowds of people are gathering. They say a protest meeting of Serbian Socialist Party supporters was called for 1300 outside BORBA, which printed 20,000 copies of a special edition on yesterday's events. Only a small number of those reached newsagents.

The meeting of opposition leaders with journalists is still in progress at the Youth Club and not at the party's headquarters, as stated in the invitation.

Presidency Session Views Belgrade's Security

LD1003142191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1334 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 10 Mar (TANJUG)—At today's SFRY Presidency session, presided over by [SFRY Presidency] President Borisav Jovic, the current security situation in Belgrade following yesterday's events was discussed. The Federal Executive Council president, the Serbian president, the federal secretary for internal affairs, and the chief of general staff of the SFRY armed forces took part in the session.

On the basis of reports by authorized federal and republic state bodies, the SFRY Presidency concluded that on 9 March destructive demonstrations took place in Belgrade. The demonstrators used arms against the public order services. There were casualties, enormous material damage, and citizens' safety and security were endangered.

It was agreed the demonstrations had greatly damaged democratic and reform processes and the reputation of Belgrade, Serbia, and the country as a whole.

In its commitment to safeguard the constitutional order and the security of citizens and their property, and not to allow violence and destructive behavior, the SFRY Presidency deployed appropriate armed forces units to prevent additional serious and damaging consequences.

The SFRY Presidency instructs all authorized state bodies, both in the republic and at the federal level, to take all measures envisaged by the Constitution and the law to preempt any similar attempt at violence and to apply all legal sanctions against persons who take part in them.

The SFRY Presidency stresses yet again that all problems and open political issues can be solved in a peaceful

and democratic way and that it will persevere in its determination to provide all conditions necessary for this.

Mesic, Drnovsek Explain Presidency Absence

LD1003144891 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1418 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Zagreb, 10 Mar (TANJUG)—SFRY Presidency Vice President Stipe Mesic said in a statement to HINA [Croatian News Agency] regarding his absence from today's Presidency session "that he and Janez Drnovsek, a member of the Presidency and the Slovenia representative, did not go to the session because in essence it was only supposed to confirm the decisions of yesterday's telephone session, at which the Serbian leadership's demand was met that force be used against those who gathered in Republic Square and in the city center. Drnovsek and I were against the application of repressive measures, and we maintain that the meeting of the opposition should have been allowed and that it would have been more appropriate to have satisfied their demands than use force."

Mesic added at the end that as a result of the situation that has arisen, he and Drnovsek propose that the next session of the Presidency, Tuesday 12 March, be held in Ljubljana or Zagreb, and that it is hoped that members of the SFRY Presidency will be informed of this proposal.

Democratic Party Assails Serbian Authorities

LD1003153491 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1416 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 10 Mar (TANJUG)—At their news conference in Belgrade's Youth Center today, the leaders of the Democratic party [Demokratska Stranka—DS] told foreign and Yugoslav journalists that the violent events in Belgrade yesterday were "provided by a politically ill-considered decision to ban demonstrations and by police intervention."

Speaking about the consequences of the opposition demonstrations yesterday, DS leader Dragoljub Micunovic, first invited all those present to observe one minute's silence for the tragic victims of the events. He went on to warn that Serbia's current legal and political status give cause for great concern.

There are tanks in the streets and citizens are being searched, although neither a state of emergency nor military measures have been declared."

DS Executive Committee Chairman Zoran Djindjic described the situation as "a speciality of the Serbs." He claimed that the authorities' conduct yesterday was part of "a scenario designed to cause a non-legislative crisis in Serbia."

Summing up yesterday's unsuccessful attempts by opposition representatives to contact representatives of the republican government and find a way to settle the situation, Vojislav Kostunica expressed bitterness about what he described as "an incredible show of arrogance on the part of the authorities and complete lack of moral sensitivity on the part of the government."

Kostunica expressed doubt that the opposition demands will be met concerning the urgent session of the Serbian Assembly and the explanation of all elements of the demonstrations. He also hinted at the permanent withdrawal of the DS deputies, and, most likely of all, the other opposition parties from the Serbian Assembly.

Joining in the protest of DS deputies who will not be taking part in the work of the Assembly until an emergency session is convened, Mihailo Kovac, deputy of the Party of Yugoslavs, announced that "he will no longer appear on Belgrade TV."

During the news conference the DS leaders said that editorial boards of some Belgrade papers were searched yesterday ('VECERNJE NOVOSTI', 'Radio 92' and Studio-B TV were mentioned). They also announced that they will lay flowers where the two victims fell, and also meet all costs that the families of the victims may have to bear.

Asked whether it is true that Stipe Mesic and Janez Drnovsek were against the use of tanks in the streets of Belgrde, Micunovic replied that he does not know for certain, but that this is most likley true because "everything that happens in Belgrade may set the precedent for other towns."

The DS leadership announced that the party has embarked upon peaceful demonstrations since yesterday.

"Our message to those who think everything ended with the tanks and arrests of young men is that the demonstrations of 9 March will not be the last demonstrations in Belgrade and in Serbia," said Kostunica.

Socialist Party on Demonstrations

LD1003160691 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1430 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 10 Mar (TANJUG)—At a time when Serbia, all its citizens and the whole Serbian nation are in need of peace, and are striving for a more secure existence and progress, the capital of Serbia and Yugoslavia has experienced an upsurge of violence and terrorism. Belgrade citizens and the entire public in Serbia, and all those who look to Serbia as a backbone and for encouragement, are embittered and shocked by the hatred and vandalism orchestrated by the Serbian Renaissance Movement [Srpski Pokret Obnove—SPO] and some of the opposition. It is hard to believe that this is happening in Belgrade, above all a freedom-loving city, which has always been a place of refuge for the persecuted, it is stressed in today's statement issued by the executive committee of the main committee of the Socialist Party of Serbia [Socijalisticka Partija Srbije—SPS].

The was an attempt to destabilize and destroy Serbia from within, as part of a well-known anti-serbian and anti-Yugoslav scenario. With the attack on the constitutional order, and the legitimate authorities there was a desire to annul everything that has been achieved over the past three years in the difficult political struggle of the leadership of the republic and the whole nation—a united state and democracy. What it lost in free and secret elections, the SPO, led by Vuk Draskovic, yesterday attempted to seize in the street. Those who in a self-appointed way took it upon themselves ostensibly to represent Serbianhood [srpstvo] betrayed the interests of the Serbian nation at the most crucial moment for its future.

Citizens and the democratic public in the republic are justifiably asking themselves in what further way they should confirm what kind of Serbia they want, when on so many occasions in referenda and elections they have said what they had to say. The trust of the vast majority of citizens in the SPS and the convincing electoral result are the best answer of the people of Serbia to all those whose only program is chaos, the paralysis of society, and power at any price, even if this means human casualties. Serbia regrets the loss of life. The human casualties, which were in vain, the large number of injured, and the huge material damage are a tragic and lasting accusation against the leaders of these demonstrations.

The citizens of Belgrade and Serbia wanted in large numbers to oppose the perpetrators of violence, who were not afraid of anything. The SPS did everyting to prevent a direct clash between citizens and demosntrators from coming about. The general demand is that the authorities use all means envisaged by the constitution to ensure order and peace on a lasting basis and take all legal measures against the organizers of these demonstrations.

SPS deputies in the National Assembly will consistently advocate discussions and decisions on all issues in the legitimate organs of the authorities and in accordance with democratic procedure.

The SPS calls on its membership, supporters, and the citizens of Serbia to get back to work because it is only in this way that we can solve all the social and political problems. The SPS will persist with its program of peace and prosperity for the republic of Serbia, the statement concludes.

Loncar on Republican Talks; Macedonian Minority

LD0903181291 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1154 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Skopje, 9 Mar (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav Foreign Ministry will adopt an open and constructive approach to the question of protecting the rights of parts of the Macedonian people living in neighboring countries, and will not follow the logic "I will give as much as you do, or what you refuse to give I will take away from you." This was stated by Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Budimir Loncar in his interview for Skopje's 'REVIJA 21' paper. Commenting on the consequences of the Gulf war which has just ended, Loncar said that ending the war in a military way did not mean that the crisis in this area had been overcome. "It can be said straight away that the long-term effects of the Gulf war will be very very difficult. Even if we exclude moral, material, ecological, and even psychological consequences, the question remains how, if at all possible, to heal the political wounds, for instance concerning inter-Arab relations."

In a reply to the question, what is Yugoslavia's position in the increasingly powerful processes of European integration and the disintegration of an "Eastern European socialist bloc," Loncar said, amongst other things, that not even in Europe, once integration processes have taken off, will all countries be able to keep pace with all developments. The more qualified, capable, and skillful countries will take the lead. Those who can prove themselves by real values will come to the fore. This also applies to some of our republics where national symbols, values, or past will be of no help.

To the question of what, objectively speaking, our secretariat for foreign affairs can now do given the presence of the polarization between republics, and when we are faced with a new agreement on life together, Loncar says: "It can continue to do what it is doing—to persistently drive home the message that it is very easy to take things apart, but very painstaking, sometimes impossible, to build something up."

"Of course," Loncar adds, "its future too will depend on the character of a future state. I start from the assumption that the state will certainly be reformed, but that it will be an international subject. In other words, it will have a unified foreign affairs secretariat and sufficient space, in which each person will be able to express his or her own interests and values."

Commenting on the results of the conference of the Balkan foreign ministers, Loncar says that it is perhaps an exaggeration, in the still existing circumstances, to speak of opening some new areas of civilization in the Balkans, but it is not unrealistic. "If agreements from previous meetings are taken into account, and all of them are in the process, and if the results of the Paris CSCE are implanted into the relative autochthonous nature of Balkan regional cooperation, than an end must also come to the historical wall between the Balkans and other parts of Europe. This wall has still not yet been destroyed, but it is crumbling to a great extent, despite the new-old pretentions which are raising their head.

Asked to comment on the protection of rights for those Macedonian people who live in neighboring countries, Loncar said: "There is no doubt that the question of minorities, always among the most sensitive ones, is now not just legitimately but also openly raised with regard to new European processes. It is clear why. It encroaches

upon the all-European humanitarian dimension, which is still very important, and also upon the sphere of building trust, which is the basis of all future architecture. If this is our aim then ways to achieve it are clear: good relations. If relations are improved, then the question of minorities can be placed in a clearer perspective and more successfully solved. It does not mean that for the sake of good relations the question of minorites—and Macedonia within this context—could be marginalized, and not in the least overlooked.

It is clear that everyone who strives toward participating in the construction of a great European home must adhere to some joint key postulates. They imply open and constructive approaches and not the logic of the kind—I will give as much as you do, or what you refuse to give I will take away from you.

Asked how he viewed the demands for his dismissal from this post, Loncar said: "Considering that today it is fashionable that everyone makes definitive assessments and bases demands for resignations on them, I can only note that this fashion trend has not yet put me on the top of that list."

Markovic, Prime Ministers on Budget Talks

LD0803220291 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1856 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, March 8 (TANJUG)—The prime ministers of Yugoslav republics on Friday promised Federal Prime Minister Ante Markovic that the republics would fulfill their obligations to the Federal Republic's budget overdue from last year.

They also agreed that the republican delegations in the Federal Legislature uphold the proposal on issuing bonds of the Federation which are to partially settle the financing of the Yugoslav State.

The talks with the international monetary fund will continue, it was announced after today's meeting. Also, as set out the republics should participate in the negotiations on new arrangements.

The republican prime ministers and the federal prime minister agreed on the reduction of public spending. However, details about this have not been revealed.

The Yugoslav Government is trying, in the negotiations with the republics, to ensure a minimum of conditions for unimpeded functioning of the federal state until a new accord on Yugoslavia is reached.

New Platform for Republic Confederation Announced

LD0803203991 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1844 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, March 8 (TANJUG)—A new platform on relationships in a future community of Yugoslavia provides for joint functions in the domain of the economy, defences, foreign policy, and human rights and freedoms—it was announced today by the information service of the State Presidency of Yugoslavia.

The new document on joint functions of the Yugoslav community was drawn up by a group of experts from all the six republics and the Province of Vojvodina. The document would be considered by the Yugoslav Presidency at its meeting on March 12.

The Yugoslav TANJUG news agency learns that the group of experts,which was set up by the State Presidency of Yugoslavia, has succeeded in getting closer together the stands concerning the joint functions in the field of the economy, defences and human rights, while the stands on foreign policy in international relations have remained non-conformed.

The new platform on the joint functions of the Yugoslav community leaves open certain questions relating to the country's security. Experts would try to coordinate all the differing stands and set forth also their alternative proposals until the presidency's meeting on March 12.

The group of experts, as was made public, had not taken stands regarding both the character of a future Yugoslav community and the ways and vehicles of its decision-making and its joint functions.

During the negotiations so far on the future organization of Yugoslavia, there have been the three possible concepts: A loose confederation (advocated by the republics of Slovenia and Croatia), a modern federation (Serbia, Montenegro) and a union of the republics as autonomous states with certain joint functions (Bosnia-Hercegovina, Macedonia).

Democratic Official To Visit European Parliament

LD0803185191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1739 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, March 8 (TANJUG)—Dragoljub Micunovic, the leader of the Democratic Party, said his party expects the European Parliament to use its authority to uphold the integrity of Yugoslavia and publicly discourage all separatist aspirations which are leading to its violent breaking up.

The Democratic Party, the second largest opposition party in the Republic of Serbia which rallies prominent intellectuals—lawyers, economists and writers—is the first Serbian party which will officially visit the European Parliament, from March 12 to 14.

The Democratic Party expects the European Parliament to persevere in its aspiration that other countries do not encourage secessionist movements which could turn Yugoslavia into a dangerous hot-bed of crisis and instability in Europe, Micunovic said at a news conference.

The talks in Strasbourg will focus on relations among republican leaders who, as Micunovic said, are sharply and obstinately opposed to each other. He warned that

the republican leaders' actions have painted a picture of Yugoslavia as a high-risk country for foreign investments.

Underscoring the wish of the Democratic Party to avoid the use of force to settle the Yugoslav crisis, Micunovic recalled his party's proposal that an agreement be reached on a one-year moratorium on all republican one-sided anti-constitutional acts, which could lead to a civil war or military dictatorship in Yugoslavia.

Markovic Receives Romanian Foreign Minister

LD0803201191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1825 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 8 Mar (TANJUG)—Federal Executive Council President Ante Markovic received Romanian Foriegn Affairs Minister Adrian Nastase today. In the talks there was discussion of bilateral cooperation, and the need for changes in the economic systems was expressed. In both countries new ways of improving economic cooperation should be sought.

It was also said that both countries are moving toward firmer ties and rapid inclusion in the European integration processes.

Foreign Affairs Federal Secretary Budimir Loncar also took part in the talks.

Nastase Concludes Visit

LD0803195991 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1846 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 8 Mar (TANJUG)—Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase today left Belgrade for Bucharest, completing his two-day visit to Yugoslavia.

Yesterday and today Nastase had talks, on two occasions, with his host Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Budimir Loncar on all important questions concerning relations between the two countries. Special attention was devoted to economic cooperation and the status of national minorities. The two ministers agreed that traditional good-neighborly relations are a good basis for the consolidation of cooperation in all fields.

In his statement for TANJUG at the end of his visit, Nastase gave special emphasis on his country's wish for the promotion of cooperation and the continuity of contacts in all fields. He was quoted to have said that there were all conditions for Romanian-Yugoslav relations to become an example to others, especially regarding economic cooperation and attitude to national minorities.

During the day Nastase was also received by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, SFRY President Boris Jovic, and, prior to his departure, Prime Minister Ante Markovic.

Albanian Refugees Stranded on Island; Lack Food

LD0803145891 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1419 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Split, March 8 (TANJUG)—The drama of 30 Albanian refugees who reached the island of Palagruza last night continues. According to the Split port authorities, the refugees are without food and fuel.

A tug boat, Trudbenik, left the Port of Ploce last night in an attempt to reach the island of Palagruza, but had to stop near the island of Susac due to gale force winds. The Split port authorities decided to send another tug boat which is expected to reach Palagruza Island on Saturday morning.

Port authorities and border police units from the island of Vis will leave for Palagruza on Saturday to see why a groups of Albanian refugees stopped at the Yugoslav island.

It is highly unlikely that the refugees will ask for asylum in Yugoslavia, since they have asked for fuel to continue their trip towards Italy when the storm abates.

Envoy to Greece Lodges Protest on Macedonia

LD0803173491 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1539 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Athens, March 8 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Ambassador to Athens Milan Milutinovic on Friday sharply protested in the Greek Foreign Ministry against anti-Yugoslav slogans written overnight on the Yugoslav Embassy and consulate buildings.

The slogans abuse and belittle the Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Macedonians. A similar incident occurred on February 6, so the ambassador asked for protection of the embassy and consulate buildings.

Earlier this week, Greece lodged a protest in Belgrade against statements of support to the Macedonian minority in Bulgaria and Greece by Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman.

Greece and Bulgaria do not recognize Macedonians as a nation or a national minority. Macedonians in Yugoslavia have the status of a nation, and live in the republic of Macedonia.

Kosovo Official Criticizes 'Serbian Policy'

LD0803194591 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1251 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Pristina, 8 Mar (TANJUG)—Democratic Alliance of Kosovo [Demokratski Savez Kosova—DSK] Chairman Ibrahim Rugova sharply criticized "the Serbian policy" at a news conference today.

"It seems that the Serbian regime and the Serbian police have lost their nerve, and that they are acting even more beastly toward the Albanians. This will have to end,

because we cannot enter Europe in this state. We suggest that the Serbian regime mind its own business in Serbia and leave the Albanians in Kosovo to live in peace. We tell militant members of the Bozur Association to keep their arms for their own suicides."

Journalists asked many questions about his lengthy absence and visit to Albania.

Rugova opened the news conference with "a sharp protest" of police behavior. The police stopped and searched him and members of his organization after they returned from Albania. Rugova claimed that the police even wanted "to liquidate them, but as a result of their level-headedness, they managed to avoid the liquidation".

He said the the DSK visit to Albania was successful. The DSK was in Albania at the invitation of the Albanian Democratic Party and President Ramiz Alia. During the visit, the DSK exchanged views with several Albanian parties. Rugova said the latest events in Albania are a reflection of the system and the general situation in that country, and added that bureaucratic forces exist that want to remain in power and that are hindering the progress of democracy.

Rugova did not mention his meeting with Ramiz Alia, but on being asked what he thought about him he said that Ramiz Alia "is a reformer who wants to initiate democratic processes, and so far he has managed to reform Albania".

Commenting on the demand of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic that Alia should let a group of Serbs and Montenegrins leave Albania and enter Yugoslavia, Rugova said that Milosevic wanted to create a new Pakrac. "Let me say something ironic—this will be a pie in the sky [bice to klajne morgen, bez prevoda], he said. Milosevic still has no state of his own, Rugova added.

The leader of the largest political organization of Albanians in Kosovo made it clear that "there will be no agreement on a future Yugoslavia or its demise without the Albanians and Kosovo".

Replying to a journalist's remark that a large number of Albanians in Kosovo want to be united with Albania, he said that the Democratic Alliance's stance is that Albanians should first find their identity in Yugoslavia". Free circulation of people in the spirit of European integration should be ensured first, while the issue of integration should be a matter of time and future", Rugova said.

The stance was also repeated today that Albanians will not mark the 10th anniversary of the 1981 demonstrations and unrests, when a status of republic was demanded, by any public meetings. Rugova said that this anniversary will be marked by panels and talks.

Rugova has no stance, though, on the call of the so-called independent Trade Union on Albanian workers, to try "to return to work" in large numbers.

Describes Talks With Albania's Alia

LD0803164491 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1315 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Pristina, 8 Mar (TANJUG)—In an exclusive interview for BUJKU (POLJOPRIVREDNIK) [FARMER], the chairman of the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo [Demokratski Svez Kosova—DSK], Ibrahim Rugova, stated upon his return from Albania that "following the Prizren League and insignificant contacts during World War II, this was the first meeting and first talks between Albanians about their political and national issues."

Rugova talked with President Ramiz Alia about "a very difficult situation in Kosovo and ways of resolving it," as well as about the situation in Albania and prospects for establishing democracy in that country. The statement cites that Albania as a state and Ramiz Alia as its president "are well informed about the situation in Kosovo, despite some lacunas arising from the lack of political orientation and direct contacts."

A six-man delegation headed by Rugova was in Albania at the invitation of President Alia and the Albanian Democratic Party. In Albania they urged "better official relations at the state level, after free elections and with newly-elected representatives of that country." According to 'BUJKU', Rugova, on behalf of the DSK delegation, invited representatives of the first opposition party in Albania to pay a visit to Kosovo. Rugova added, however, that hundreds of people in Tirana are waiting in vain in front of the Yugoslav Embassy to obtain a visa to visit our country. This shows, Rugova said, how much Yugoslavia is (dis)interested in the opening-up of Albania as a state. For the same reason, he himself had to travel to Albania via Switzerland.

Rugova 'Threatened' by Polic on Return

AU0803145591 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 5 Mar 91 p 14

[P. B. report: "Rugova's Assassination']

[Text] Pristina—The presidium of the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo [DSK] yesterday addressed a sharp protest to the Yugoslav democratic public regarding "the Serbian police forces' scenario to physically liquidate DSK President Dr. Ibrahim Rugova and the members of the delegation that recently visited Albania and Germany."

The DSK statement said "the three cases of harassment of Ibrahim Rugova and the members of the delegation, which occurred on the Skopje-Pristina road while they were on the way back from visiting Albania, escalated into threats of physical liquidation." Moreover, "the Serbian police, who had been lying in wait and were armed to the teeth, stopped the vehicle three times and threatened to kill all the passengers." The DSK then states that "the Serbian police pointed their guns," but

"the worst was avoided only thanks to the presence of mind of Ibrahim Rugova and other members of the delegation."

The Provincial Headquarters of the Special Units of the Republican Secretariat of Internal Affairs in Pristina stated, regarding this case, that "this was a matter of a routine check" and that "nobody had planned to assassinate Rugova or anyone else." The Provincial Headquarters also announced that they will issue an official statement on the incident.

Albanian Daily Describes New Kosovo 'Currency'

LD0803134891 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1204 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Pristina, 8 Mar (TANJUG)—The Albanian youth paper ZERI I RINISE in today's issue published a picture of Albanian currency in Kosovo. The new Kosovo currency announced by "The National Bank of Kosovo" is named the dardan. On one side of this "currency" is written "The Kosovo Republic—National Bank of Kosovo" and the name of the currency: dardan. In the right-hand corner is a picture of Skenderbeg, and in the left, below a picture of a two-headed Albanian eagle, is the date 2 July, 1990, when a group of delegates of Albanian nationality proclaimed the so-called "constitutional declaration" on Kosovo as "an independent political entity" within Yugoslavia.

At the reverse of the currency is a picture of the university library. Below the abbreviation "BKK" (National Bank of Kosovo) is the date 7 November 1990, when an assembly of the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo was convened but not held.

The value of "one dardan" is $1. The magazine ZERI I RINISE costs one "dardan", that is, 15 dinars.

Izetbegovic on Presidency's Sarajevo Session

AU0803135691 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 28 Feb 91 pp 1,3

[M. Lucic and D. Pusonjic report on the session of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Assembly held in Sarajevo on 27 February: "Bosnia Then Yugoslavia"]

[Text] Sarajevo—I would sacrifice peace for a sovereign Bosnia-Hercegovina, but I would not sacrifice the sovereignty of Bosnia-Hercegovina for peace in the republic.

This was stated yesterday by Alija Izetbegovic, president of the Presidency of Bosnia-Hercegovina, at a joint session of the two chambers of the Bosnian Assembly, while he was explaining the course of the talks in the SFRY Presidency, which met last week [on 22 February] in Sarajevo.

Expounding on this stand, Izetbegovic stressed that there were two essential minimum conditions for Bosnia-Hercegovina in these talks, and these were the sovereignty, freedom, and integrity of Bosnia-Hercegovina, and a peaceful road to them. According to Izetbegovic, this was the lower limit under which the Presidency cannot go in negotiations on the destiny of Yugoslavia. I have never gone below this minimum, he said, and added that there is pressure to do so from outside Bosnia and even from within it. I have never surrendered to it and if I am ever unable to defend this limit, I will step down from this post, Izetbegovic said.

Izetbegovic emphasized that if he had to choose, Bosnia would be first for him and then Yugoslavia. He explained this by saying that perhaps Yugoslavia may not exist and this does not depend solely on Bosnia-Hercegovina, but we will determine whether the Bosnia-Hercegovina creation will exist or not, Izetbegovic said.

In putting forward the concept of a future community, Izetbegovic said that it should be a joint state of Yugoslav peoples that would contain sovereign republics that make up a state community that would also be a state itself.

According to Izetbegovic, this is where the confederal and federal concepts, which are being offered by Slovenia and Croatia on the one hand and Serbia and Montenegro on the other, differ. Bosnia-Hercegovina is in favor of the republics being sovereign and building a creation that is a state. Izetbegovic suggests that Bosnia-Hercegovina advocates that the state community be saved and he thought that all those who represent these two aforementioned extreme stands are destroying Yugoslavia.

At the beginning of his speech, Izetbegovic said that there was no need for him to present his stand at the Assembly, saying that "wolves did not eat up little red riding hood" and that they will not swallow her. He mentioned in this context that he was understood by all those who read yesterday's OSLOBODJENJE and that they had understood the story and messages that Bosnia-Hercegovina is too big to be eaten up by anyone.

Izetbegovic explained the essence of the stand that he represented at the negotiations on Yugoslavia's future, saying that this advocated a sovereign, peaceful, and democratic Bosnia-Hercegovina that is to the liking of all citizens.

Izetbegovic stressed that he represented the stands that were generally endorsed at a session of the Presidency of Bosnia-Hercegovina and that he had presented to the Assembly in the middle of January, having asked himself the question—were there any variations in these stands—and finding the reply that there were but they were not essential. Izetbegovic asked the deputies to adopt the declaration on the sovereignty and indivisibility of Bosnia-Hercegovina because all republics are sovereign and behave in this way in the talks. He emphasized once again that the destiny of Bosnia-Hercegovina takes place in the republic, not outside it.

Polemics

Not inconsiderable surprise was caused by Izetbegovic's reaction to the interview given by Radovan Karadzic that was published in BORBA the day before yesterday. Izetbegovic said that he was shocked by Karadzic's announcement that the Serbian Democratic Party had empowered Slobodan Milosevic to represent the interests of the Bosnian Serbs in Yugoslavia. This statement directly infringes on the sovereignty of Bosnia-Hercegovina and directly violates the Constitution of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Izetbegovic stressed, frequently interrupted by applause. He expressed doubt that the Serbian people support this statement by Karadzic. Izetbegovic said that the Serbian people had not given Milosevic the right through democratic means to represent them, and that this was not the only controversial statement that Karadzic had made. He also protested the statement by the leader of the Serbian Democratic Party that Serbs in Bosnia-Hercegovina feared a "Bartholomew night," [referring to the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre of Huguenots in Paris in 1572] that needlessly makes the situation in the republic worse.

Finally, Izetbegovic said that apart from Serbs, neither Muslims nor Croats have empowered Milosevic to represent the interests of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Responding to Izetbegovic, Radovan Karadzic pointed out that his statement to BORBA had not been quoted correctly.

"I said that if Yugoslavia collapses, we give Slobodan Milosevic the right to represent Serbs in Bosnia-Hercegovina, but if a Yugoslavia is built, the Serbs in Bosnia-Hercegovina give Izetbegovic the right to represent them."

50,000 Bosnia Serbs Support Confederation

LD0303154591 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1415 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Summary] Banja Luka, 3 Mar (TANJUG)—About 50,000 Serbs from Bosnia-Hercegovina attended today's meeting in Banja Luka held under the slogan "Bosnia-Hercegovina in Yugoslavia." The message from the meeting was: If Bosnia-Hercegovina disappears, we shall not live outside Yugoslavia and far away from Serbia.

Serbians Protest Tax on Croatian Summer Homes

LD0803204291 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1821 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Milica Knezevic report]

[Text] Belgrade, March 8 (TANJUG)—Around 400 citizens of the Yugoslav republic of Serbia, who own summer houses on the Adriatic coast in the republic of Croatia, set up an association for the protection of their rights in Belgrade last night.

The Croatian government late last year introduced a measure under which "legal and private persons with headquarters or residence in the republic of Serbia," who own property in Croatia have to annually pay 300 dinars (33 DM) per square metre.

There are around 100,000 summer houses in Croatia, but there is no reliable information how many owners are affected by the measure.

The legislators stress the measure is temporary, and the Croatian press explains it is a reply to the economic war which was begun by the Serbian government.

The biggest Yugoslav republic last October adopted 15 protectionist measures which limited access to the Serbian market to [words indistinct] the northwestern republics of Croatia and Slovenia.

At the suggestion of the Yugoslav Government, the Federal Constitutional Court two months ago began to review the constitutionality of the law entitling the Croatian government to carry temporary measures to protect the republic's economic interests.

The Constitutional Court temporarily banned Croatia's measures until its relevant procedure ends as well as Serbia's decision to introduce special taxes for putting up markings, the use of office space and building land which has affected Croatian firms.

The Croatian press warns that lawyers tend to give different interpretations of the Croatian government's measures on specific taxes and who will pay them.

In the meantime, some municipalities in Croatia are making sharp moves. Belgrade Television last night broadcast a report on the pulling down of summer houses on the Dubrovnik riveria.

The head of the building inspection of the municipality of Dubrovnik, Boza Miljanic, put into effect a regulation passed seven years ago on the demolition of summer houses built without permission, and wrecked 340 houses in only three months.

Miljanic claims that the local authorities did not check who owned the houses, but Belgrade Television said that the owners were mainly citizens of Serbia.

The people are now being dragged into the clash between republican leaderships and are paying for their political quarrels.

Peterle: Slovenia Ready for 1 July Independence

AU0803142291 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 8 Mar 91 p 4

[Report on interview with Slovene Prime Minister Lojze Peterle by Josef Kirchengast in Vienna on 7 March: "Peterle: As of July, Yugoslavia Will No Longer Exist"]

[Excerpts] Vienna—Slovene Prime Minister Lojze Peterle told DER STANDARD on Thursday [7 March]

that Slovenia is prepared by 15 May to take "several steps" toward independence, if "wild events" were to take place. It is clear that after 1 July 1991, Yugoslavia will no longer exist in its present form, said Peterle. Nor is it possible under the present circumstances to create a confederation, even though Ljubljana has "not totally dropped" the idea. [passage omitted]

Peterle said that the concrete measures that could be carried out after 15 May include taking over customs checks at the borders of the republic by installing Slovene customs officials. In addition, the Slovene "secession budget" which contains only a minimal budget to maintain the most important federal functions will also be decided by the end of March. As for the rest, the services of the Slovene republic continue to function as if "the end of June was the most important date." By that time, the constitution of a sovereign Slovenia must be adopted, according to a decision made by the legislature in Ljubljana.

Peterle vehemently disputes the claim that by recognizing the Serbs' right to live in their own state, Slovenia has weakened Croatia's position on claims for a larger Serbia: "There is no pact with Serbia. We never said that we accept the Serbian ideas of its own state. The existing borders may only be changed by agreements between the individual republics, and the respective minorities must be protected according to the European standard."

Prepared for May 15 Separation

AU0803150191 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 5 Mar 91 p 1

[S. Sicarov report: "Departure by 15 May"]

[Text] Ljubljana—In spite of what appears to be a calming of the situation in Yugoslavia, relations are continuing to deteriorate rapidly, especially between federal authorities and the individual republics. This situation has been maintained in Slovenia, and the latest pressures and proposals of the Federal Executive Council and of the SFRY Presidency demonstrate that the federal leadership is not willing to respect a legitimate decision by Slovene citizens. Therefore, all political forces in Slovenia should reach agreement about the government's economic and political activities as soon as possible. Before the deadline set by the law on plebiscite expires, the government must prepare, and the legislature adopt, all the most important laws in the areas of the credit-monetary system, the process of becoming independent, defense, and relations concerning property and entrepreneurship.

This was the stand expressed by the DEMOS club of deputies, which had a meeting in the Center for Military Training in Poljce last weekend. During the last few months it has became customary for the DEMOS deputies to gather in Poljce before making any important decision. The DEMOS club of deputies set 15 May as the final date for implementing the plebiscitary decision and achieving full economic independence. DEMOS Chairman France Zagozen explained that this sudden decision was made because it is almost definite that the Yugoslav crisis will erupt on that day, if it has not come to a head before then.

As is known, Stipe Mesic is due to succeed Borisav Jovic as SFRY Presidency president on 15 May, and the crisis of relations between Croatia and Serbia would reach its peak at that time, thus Slovenia must be ready for full independence by that date.

Albanian Troops Prevent Border Crossing

LD0803200891 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1717 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Summary] Titograd, 8 Mar (TANJUG)—Last night Albanian soldiers prevented a group of about 100 Muslim Bosniaks of Yugoslav origin—men, women and children—from crossing the Albanian-Yugoslav border near the Montenegrin town of Bozaj, we learn from two eye-witnesses. They both made statements for Montenegrin radio saying that the Bosniaks decided to escape across the border when they heard of the successful defection of Serbs and Montenegrins two nights ago. The eye-witnesses also told the radio that gun-fire was heard but there is no reliable information on any possible victims. Judging by peace and quiet on the Albanian side today one can only assume that the group was taken back to Albania during the night.